

**SEE
PAGE 12**

**Reality of
the quiet
country pub
PAGE 17**

BY CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

The directors, whose pay increased by up to 90 per cent last year, had shown nowhere near enough contrition and the "small concession" would not appease public anger over their personal remuneration.

Mr Smith emerged from the hour-long meeting at the Heritage Department declaring that he wanted all or part of current bonuses - totalling £23 million - as well as £205 million worth (£520,000 due in October, to be paid to charity. He also demanded that interest on spare prize money, amounting to £6 million, should go to good causes.

Camel came armed with the small concession that they should make a donation from the profits available to the bonus aid directors.

Mr Smith said: "This does not address the central issue of overpayments to directors and I do not believe that it addresses the understandable public

**"I just hope no-one
hears about our
Halifax windfall"**

Inside at the Department said the three men had appeared unaware of the public anger to the point of arrogance.

After leaving Mr Smith, the three Camelot executives spent a further 15 minutes inside the Heritage Department formulating a statement.

Outside Mr Holley and Mr Rigg declined to comment, but Sir George said that they discussed the setting up of a non-profit lottery.

"I proposed to the Secretary of State that we immediately embark on a partnership with the Government upon discussions for a new shape for the National Lottery and that such new arrangements should encompass pay and incentives for directors and all staff as well as the 'not for profit' concept," he said. Camelot had also agreed to waive interest on the prize shortfall

He said: "Although I welcome your commitments to give a sum equivalent to directors' bonuses to your charitable foundation, I do not believe that it addresses the underlying problem. I expect a response to my proposals by the end of the week."

The Virgin Group chairman, Richard Branson, who mounted a bid to run the lottery on a non-profit basis, supported Mr Smith's stance. He said that the Camelot directors had acted unwisely, but had not been underhand. However, he thought that public support for the lottery would suffer if changes were not made.

Oxfam said that even with giving all directors' bonuses to charity, the lottery remained an inefficient way of donating cash because only 5p in every £1 spent went to good causes.

Photograph, page 2

Photograph, page 2

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

On a visit to a rundown housing estate in south London, the Prime Minister promised that there would be no "forgotten people" in the Britain he wanted to build.

He outlined plans to help jobless single parents through inviting them to jobcentres for advice on childcare, training and skills development, and he confirmed that the mid-week lottery would fund after-school homework clubs so that families could juggle work and home life more easily.

He also made plain that the

But he combined his promise to do more for the poor with a warning of tougher sanctions against those who wilfully failed to play their part in the "new bargain".

The proposed windfall tax would be used to get young people off benefit and into work through subsidies for employers, opportunities on Labour's environmental task force, work with voluntary organisations, and full-time education or training for people without adequate

Mr Blair deliberately chose the background of the Aylesbury estate in Southwark to deliver his first keynote speech outside Parliament since the election. He said he wanted everyone to take part in the task of creating one nation. The voluntary sector should provide 'mentors and helpers' as well as jobs for young people. He hoped schools would be open throughout he evening to make it easier for lone parents to go out to work, and older people to do their bit to help out in

Continued on page 2, col 1

Jurors, who had begun their deliberations last Friday, said McVeigh was guilty of the murder of eight law enforcement officers, conspiracy to use a weapon of mass destruction, use of the weapon and the destruction of government property.

George Bain, the new head of the Low Pay Commission, risked embarrassing the Government by conceding that the national minimum wage could lead to job losses.

Professor Bain, appointed to chair the body that will recommend the level for a statutory minimum wage, also suggested that the loss of some low-paid jobs would be a good thing.

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The Australians lost to Derbyshire by one wicket in their final match before the Test series against England starts on Thursday. Despite seven wickets by Shane Warne, Derbyshire reached their target of 371 with three balls to spare. **Page 48**

Gordon Brown will deliver his first Budget on a Wednesday. The Chancellor confirmed that the Budget, which will include a windfall tax on privatised utilities and a reduction of VAT on fuel to 5 per cent, will be on July 2 because the Prime Minister will be in Hong Kong the day before.

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BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

With the conversion of the Halifax from a building society into a bank the average windfall of between £200-£250 to 7.6 million members was expected to spark a High Street spending boom this week and immediately a race began to woo the spenders. The 1.9 million Halifax customers who sold their free shares immediately will pick

Jason Hindle, manager of the Thomas Cook shop in Halifax said he had been almost overwhelmed as soon as he opened the door. "A couple came in at 9 o'clock and said they had seen the share price and wanted to get away. They went to Canada, it was

Halifax chairman Jon Foulds at the launch

something they had always wanted to do. There's a tremendous feeling in the town. I could do with more staff."

Peter Povey, marketing di-

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

The final results gave the combined left-wing parties 319 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly but the Socialists and their allies fell short of winning an outright majority. The Communist Party, wing Government and a conservative President will last the remaining five years of M. Chirac's term.

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Teacher must be firm with the new playground bullies

"HEY, Miss! Tony's bullying us!" One after another, Tory MPs leapt up at Points of Order yesterday to tug Betty Boothroyd's sleeve and beg Teacher to sort out the playground thugs.

Sir Peter Emery (C. Devon East) was on his feet with a complicated complaint about procedure. He thought Labour's business managers were high-handed. Miss B looked as sunny as the recess she has just enjoyed. Brown as a nut and tactful as ever, she flattered this senior MP — but declined to help.

Another Tory complained that, though social security was the subject of the day's Questions, Mr Blair had taken himself off to a housing estate rather than the House. To make his speech, could MPs have tickets? Betty laughed prettily, but avoided answering. She avoided answering Bernard Jenkin (C. Colchester N) who accused Mr Blair of discourtesy.

Bill Cash (C. Stone) did no better. He was angry that the PM had returned from a European Union meeting in Nordwijk without a state-

ment. Madam Speaker couldn't help. She couldn't help Julian Brazier (C. Canterbury) who wanted a statement on the recently announced Defence Review. She couldn't help the Tory Education team, cross that a Bill had been published with little time for MPs to study it before debating it.

Tories, who think the Government is riding roughshod over the House, are sore. Dennis Skinner reminded them that, not months ago, it was they had been the arrogant ones. Gerald Kaufman



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH



(Lab. Manchester Gorton) advised the Opposition to "read my book. *How to be a Minister*. The last chapter is entitled 'How To Leave Office Gracefully'." "I haven't finished it," beamed a relaxed Miss Boothroyd.

Yet, amid all the ruminating which attends the birth of a new Government, one woman's future has

hardly been discussed. Miss Boothroyd has a grisly assignment. All at once she holds the ring as a headstrong Government faces a crippled Opposition.

For her this is a new job. A Speaker has responsibilities for the protection of endangered species like backbenchers and Tory Oppositions. The last Opposition needed

no help; and if there was an underdog it was the front bench, not its backstabbing backbenchers.

Formerly a Labour MP, she could hardly be dubbed a Tory poodle. John Major needed her goodwill and treated her with care. She faced no big challenge to her good faith or command. A poor man's head of state, she looked set for a life of greeting presidents and opening flower shows.

Now she is in new territory. Bitter Conservative Members will mutter whenever she

rules against them. If she stands up to the Labour front bench she is unlikely to be thanked by the gingerbread men and women behind.

Jack Weatherill was handed just such a chalice in 1983 when, a former Tory, he took the Chair with Labour devastated. He proved a sturdy defender of backbenchers but got little thanks from either side and (in private) quite a bruising from Tory hitmen. His relationship with his old bosses never recovered.

But yesterday all was sunshine. And reviews! Avoiding

every question, the new Social Security Secretary, Harriet Harman, promised a review. It was unclear whether these were different reviews, or one Big Review of Everything. Her quick-thinking, softly spoken, thinly smiling and faintly unsettling sidekick, Frank Field, cooed, simpered, nodded and emanated an air of menacing rationality as he insisted that he did not wish to "rough any claimants up".

There is something Pinteresque about Mr Field. I think he may be in charge.

Blair plans further tightening of the rules for ministers

By Valerie Elliott and Andrew Pierce

TONY BLAIR has ordered a review of the rules and protocol for ministers in a further attempt to tighten control over his Government.

The Prime Minister believes the Questions of Procedure for Ministers, which were last updated in 1992, need rewriting and should make clear that ministers are expected to operate as team players. He also wishes to ensure that the guidance takes note of all the concerns raised by Lord Nolan on standards in public life. The rules deal with such matters as hospitality, expenses, gifts and financial interests.

The move follows Mr Blair's personal appeal for every policy statement, speech and press release to be cleared with Downing Street. He also wants the floating of policy

ideas to be properly coordinated and for ministers to disclose their intentions before briefing journalists on particular subjects.

Last night, government sources made clear they believed the system was already working and that ministers were respecting the control that Mr Blair wished to exert at the heart of government. It was evident, too, that they were pleased that the personal memo had been leaked to show the public that the Prime Minister meant business in offering strategic leadership to the Government.

One source also pointed to the present guidance to ministers, which already sets out the "dos and don'ts" on the presentation of policy. "There is nothing new in this, but we are enforcing it. The same rules

applied to John Major's ministers but he did not control them."

It also emerged yesterday that Rachel Lomax, the Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, has said she does not wish to be considered as strategic head of the Downing Street policy unit. Mrs Lomax, widely tipped for the job post at No 10, told Mr Blair that she was committed to her job in Wales which she has not yet held for a year. She also wrote to all staff at the Welsh Office yesterday confirming her intention to stay in Wales and instructed her press office to "kill the story".

The search for a senior figure to head the policy unit continues. Downing Street sources said last night that Mr Blair had no intention of being hurried into an appointment. "This is a long-term Government and the person he wants has to be the right candidate to push through policy ideas."

It is clear, however, that a senior official in this key role would help to defuse some of the criticism about the number of political appointments made by Mr Blair in Downing Street. He confirmed last night that he had increased the number of political advisers across Whitehall. The Government has recruited 53 advisers so far, compared to 38 who were in post in February before John Major called the election.

Mr Blair told MPs last night: "As we made clear during the election campaign, I believe it is important to bolster the centre of government and bring in fresh ideas, while at the same time maintaining and supporting a politically neutral civil service."

Leading article, page 19

Welfare to work

Continued from page 1
ernment, not punishment, so that as many children as possible can grow up in working households with the expectation of a job themselves.

"We should reject the rootless morality whose symptom is a false choice between bleeding hearts and couldn't-care-less, when what we need is one grounded in the core British values, the sense of balance between rights and duties."

"The basis of this modern civil society is an ethic of mutual responsibility or duty. It is something for something. A society where we play by the rules. You only take out if you put in. That's the bargain."

He highlighted figures showing that five million people of working age lived in

homes where nobody works while more than a million had never worked since leaving school.

Alongside that, Britain had a higher proportion of single-parent families than anywhere else in Europe.

A generation of young men had little to replace the manufacturing jobs that had been lost, while many young women found that early pregnancy and the absence of a reliable father almost guaranteed a life of poverty.

"The task of reshaping welfare to reward hard work is daunting. But we must be absolutely clear that our challenge is to help all those people who want to work but are not working with the jobs, the training and the support they need."



David Rigg, Tim Holley, and Sir George Russell, of Camelot, arrive at their meeting with the Heritage Secretary

Camelot blames its foulweather friends

By Carol Midgley

AS EXCUSES go, it sounded pretty lame. Camelot insisted that the reason for a big drop in sales of lottery tickets on Saturday was not a public backlash against directors' pay rises, but the weather.

Glorious sunshine, explained the National Lottery operator, was one of the main reasons that fewer punters hoth-

ered to queue for tickets. This, and the fact that there had just been a rollover jackpot, explained the £4.5 million slump in sales on May 31 over the previous week. "On hot days people don't tend to go shopping," a spokeswoman said. It's the same with Bank Holidays or Cup finals. It all affects sales.

Yesterday *The Times* subjected Camelot's theory to empirical analysis and

failed to reach a serious conclusion. Last weekend, when Camelot had online sales of £58.6 million, was warm and sunny; the previous week it had been cool, and sales reached £63.1 million. A similar dip came on June 15, 1996, and on August 17, both hot days.

Yet in May 1995 Camelot suffered three consecutive lean weeks when the weather was cloudy and cool, with showers.

Bank fears building society payout will stoke up inflation

By Alasdair Murray

THE bumper payout to the Halifax members who were yesterday celebrating their share of the £18.5 billion float windfall is likely to have prompted frowns rather than smiles at the Bank of England.

The Bank has already expressed concern about the high level of consumer spending, which it believes will lead to higher inflation, and will be worried that Halifax members who have cashed in their shares will head off on a spectacular weekend shopping spree.

The payout may well persuade the Bank to use its new powers and raise interest rates by a quarter-point to 6.5 per cent in an attempt to slow consumer spending when its monetary policy committee meets for the first time on Thursday and Friday.

The City has been worrying for some time about the potential impact of the building society wind-

fall payouts. The total, with the Woolwich and Northern Rock flotations still to come, is likely to be nearly a third higher than originally expected, at about £30 billion. This is the biggest influx of new money into the economy, dwarfing even the payouts from the privatisation flotations or tax cuts of the 1980s.

Most of the money, which is mainly in the form of shares, will not be cashed in during the first year. But the indications from the Halifax and the Alliance & Leicester floats are that about a quarter of building society members — about four million people — are immediately trading in their shares for cash.

If this trend continues, there will be an extra £7 billion in the economy this year — the equivalent of cutting the standard rate of income tax by almost 5p. But economists are divided as to whether all of this will

be spent immediately, causing a boom on the High Street and, ultimately, higher inflation.

David Kern, chief economist at NatWest, predicts that the windfalls will mean annual growth in consumer spending jumping from the current level of 3.5 per cent to 5 per cent by the end of the year. He argues that taxes and interest rates will need to rise to head off higher inflation, although consumer spending will remain lower than in the boom years of the late 1980s when it averaged about 6.5 per cent a year.

But other economists predict the impact of the windfall payouts will be less dramatic, with only about 10 per cent of members spending the money immediately and total consumer spending rising by less than 0.5 per cent.

Business, pages 25-29

SHARE OPTIONS FOR THE WINDFALL WINNERS

Q: Do I have to pay tax on my shares?

A: It all depends on your situation. As a shareholder you will receive dividends, your share of the company's profits. Tax at the rate of 20 per cent is deducted at source from dividends. If you are a basic-rate taxpayer, you will have no further tax to pay. But if you are a higher-rate taxpayer, you will have to pay a further 20 per cent.

Those who dispose of the shares could face a capital gains tax bill, but only if they have already used up their annual capital gains allowance of £6,500. You can avoid both capital gains and income tax by sheltering shares in a personal equity plan (Pepp).

Should I sell my shares? If you have debts, it may be more cost-effective to sell and clear all or

some of the debts. For example, the cost of borrowing £1,000 on a credit card over a year could be as high as £221. However, if you can afford to hang on to your shares, you can expect the Halifax share price to remain strong. The new bank, which matches Barclays in size and is one of the ten largest stockmarket-quoted companies, has plenty of spare cash. It should soon embark on the takeover trail, a move that should further enhance the share price.

The prospect of further growth is encouraging many to buy more shares. But there is no guarantee that the price of any company will continue to rise. Jeremy Batstone, head of research at NatWest stockbrokers, believes that investors should prepare to sell as the banking sector and the whole

stockmarket look overvalued. I sold my shares. How soon will I be able to get my hands on the money?

Those who sold through the Halifax sharedealing service in the first auction of shares to institutions will be able to withdraw their cash on Friday.

Can I now move my savings from the Halifax?

You can now shop around for the best rate and the chance of a windfall elsewhere. The low level of Halifax savers' rates has attracted criticism. Although the new bank has now raised its savers' rates there is now strong competition from other banks, building societies and the banking divisions of supermarkets.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Clarke in call for delay over EMU date

Kenneth Clarke called on the European Union yesterday to delay moves to bring in a single currency. The former Chancellor, whose refusal to rule out economic and monetary union made him the target of Tory Eurosceptics in the last Parliament, said that the victory of the Left in the French elections and Germany's "unwise" attempt to revalue its gold reserves made the case for delaying EMU even stronger. "It is increasingly clear that EMU cannot proceed on a safe and sustainable basis in January 1999."

Cancer surgery

Sir James Goldsmith has undergone surgery at a private Paris hospital after being admitted for treatment for a recurrence of pancreatic cancer. There were conflicting reports about the condition of Sir James, the founder of the Referendum Party, with one family friend saying he was seriously ill, but not "at death's door" as suggested.

Microsoft talks

Cambridge University confirmed that talks are under way with Microsoft on the establishment of a research centre, but that they were "at a very preliminary stage". Industry sources say that recruitment has started for a research group of up to 100. Bill Gates, Microsoft's founder, refuses to acknowledge the project's existence.

Advert attacked

A hostage's wife has attacked a TV commercial for trivialising her husband's plight. Julie Mangano, 35, whose husband, Keith, is held by Kashmiri separatists, complained to Rover and the Independent Television Commission about a commercial showing a captive being driven to freedom in a Rover. The ITC said it had received 63 complaints.

Long Mynd fire

Almost 100 firefighters were called to a hill fire at a beauty spot yesterday. The fire on The Long Mynd, a 1,700ft hill in Shropshire, was fanned by strong winds and spread from heather and gorse to engulf 50 acres of woodland. Police said that the fire, which was on Forestry Commission land, was not believed to have been started deliberately.

Bullimore sails

Tony Bullimore set out from Cherbourg on a month-long race yesterday after gale-force winds delayed the start. The yachtsman was at sea again with a six-strong crew, five months after he was rescued from his upturned boat in freezing waters in the Southern Ocean by the Australian Navy. The eventual destination is Stockholm.

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DIRECT Debit

Elder brother weeps in court as jury is told how he lives off the family name

Last Kray is a 'pathetic old has-been'

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE elder brother of the Kray twins has become a "pathetic old has-been", cashing in on the family name and cadging drinks and cash, a jury was told yesterday.

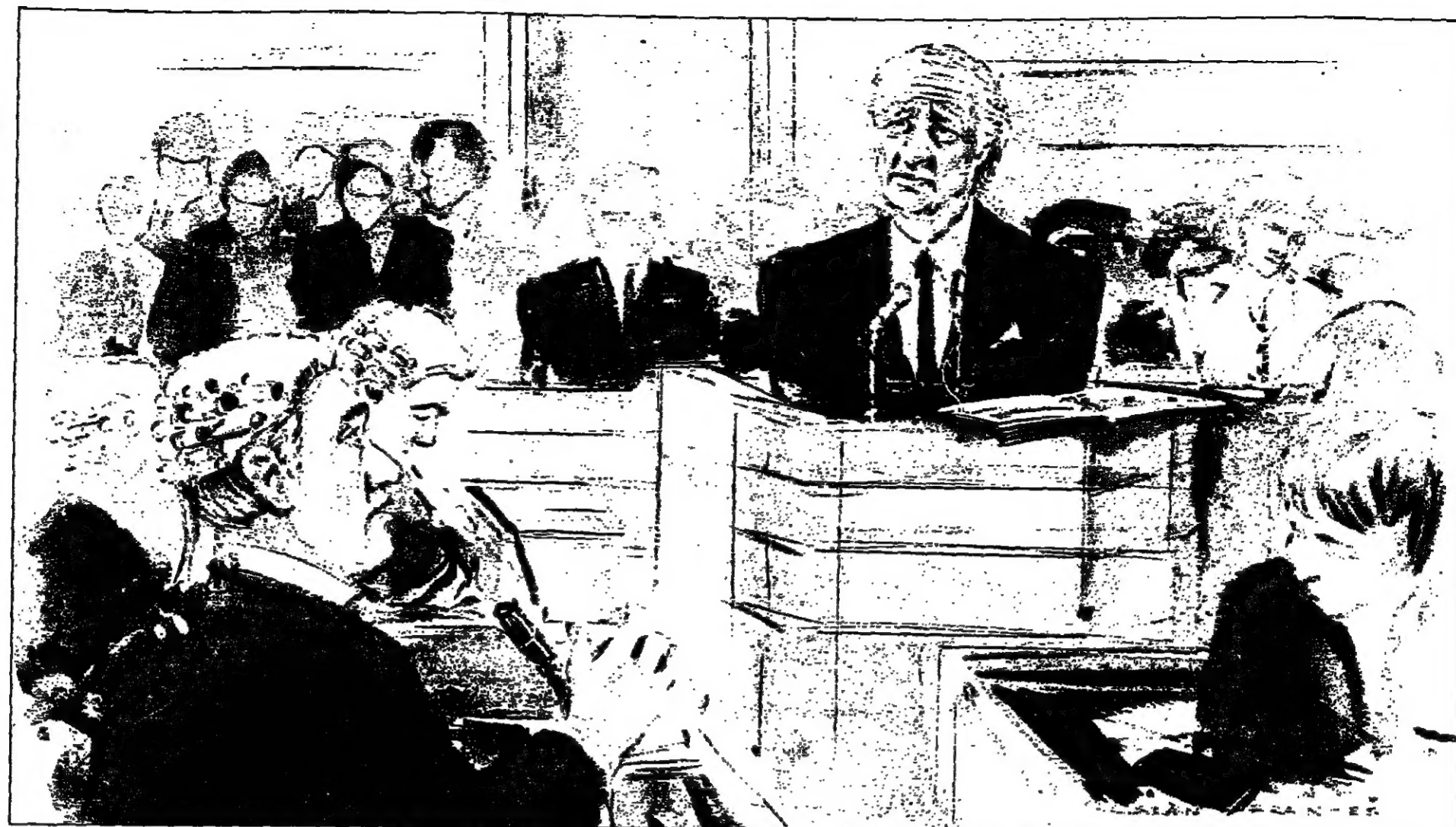
Charlie Kray, accused of being the linchpin in a drugs deal to sell cocaine worth £39 million to undercover police, was no more than a "skint" old man trying to cash out of his victims, Woolwich Crown Court was told.

Mr Kray, 70, whose brothers, Ronnie and Reggie were once the "emperors of gangland", broke down in tears as he stood hunched in the witness box and told how he was so short of money that he had been unable to pay for the funeral of his son who died, aged 44, of cancer last year.

Reggie had met the bills. Mr Kray, who said he lived in his girlfriend's home in Sanderstead, south London, with her three sons, denies two drugs charges. Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, said that police had lured a foolish man into a carefully laid trap. "This old fool thought he could string them and con them along."

On the night the undercover police met him, Mr Kray had borrowed £50 to stand his round of drinks at a party. He had been "skint" for years, Mr Goldberg said, and was still broke when the police began negotiating with him over the drug deal. He had no bank account or credit cards and, at one point during the police operation, obtained £500 from the undercover officers themselves.

Quoting from Lady Bracknell's description of Algernon in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Mr Goldberg said that Mr Kray "was nothing, but he looks everything". He might seem suave, "like a million



Charlie Kray in the dock: he broke down in tears as he told the court that he could not afford to pay for his son's funeral after he died of cancer. Illustration: Siân Frances

dollars", as he went round a room greeting people like a politician, but it was a false picture. He was "the old trumper doing his best".

He made a living off the family name, like the brothers of other famous men, such as Terry Major-Ball. The Kray name was good for a free drink or accommodation.

Mr Goldberg said Mr Kray was also very good at "bull".

He had been doing it all his life. The stories he told the undercover officers about Mossad and criminals were rubbish. He was "a man with a heart of gold, naive, gullible", but he did not know his own limitations.

If Mr Kray had been asked if he could get Scud missiles or gold bars, he would have said it was no problem. He was a "pathetic old has-been, a thor-

oughly washed-up figure hyped up by police and prosecution".

All his life Mr Kray had been a victim of the family name which was synonymous with gangsterism. He was unemployable. He had managed a failed pop group and gone bankrupt running a clothing firm. Now he earned what money he could from

television interviews and charity functions.

A former professional boxer, he was known to hate violence. In the heyday of his twin brothers in the 1960s, he had acted as the entertainment agent for their clubs and knew stars such as Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra.

His only convictions were a £5 fine for theft in 1950 and ten years in 1969 for taking part in

discussions on how to get rid of the body of Jack "The Hat" McVitie, killed by his brothers. Mr Goldberg said he had always denied the charge.

Mr Kray, who denies charges of offering to supply and supplying cocaine, had been trapped by an operation aimed at another "lovable old villain" known to Mr Kray. Mr Goldberg said police had acted as *agents provocateurs*.

It would have been a feather in the police cap to get "the last of the Krays".

Mr Goldberg said the case was surrounded by hype, with Mr Kray given the security status in prison applied to IRA terrorists. The jury were under 24-hour police surveillance, but the two kilograms of cocaine seized by the police was worth only £60,000. The trial continues.

Twins 'treated normal people with great respect and helped them'

CHARLIE KRAY was almost inaudible as he stood in the witness box in a rumpled blue suit. A handkerchief peeked from his breast pocket.

Asked about his younger twin brothers, Ronnie and Reggie, he told the court that he often played the role of peacemaker between them. "I know they were wild and I always tried to keep them in the right direction," he said, "but you can't be with someone 24 hours a day."

Jonathan Goldberg, QC, for the defence, said: "The public perception of your brothers is of very violent and bloody gangsters."

"Yes, until they knew them." Mr Kray recalled that Ronnie, who died in Broadmoor in March 1995, had a long history of mental illness. But he was a kind-hearted man, he insisted. "He would help anybody. He was not responsible when he had these moods and I would put it down to that."

Of Reggie, he said: "He had a few

fits and things like that. When his wife, Frances, died, he kind of had a death wish. He idolised the girl and he seemed to go overboard when that happened."

Mr Goldberg asked: "How are the Krays regarded in the East End?"

Mr Kray replied: "We knew it was wrong, but normal people in life, they always treated with great respect and always helped. If you go to the East End and ask about them, they will say the same and they always helped people as best they could."

He said that in 1975, after he was released from a ten-year prison sentence for being an accessory to his brothers' murder of Jack "The Hat" McVitie, he found that his surname prevented him from getting a job. Eventually he found work for several years at the Ideal Home Exhibition, selling cutlery from a stand. People came up to him and asked about the "good old days".

During further questioning, he was

asked to describe the East End when his brothers were "kings". Mr Goldberg asked: "You say there was a bit less violence and the like?"

Mr Kray: "Yes sir. That is my opinion. Women were safe and children were safe to go out at night. They're not now."

Mr Goldberg: "And these were the kinds of condition your brothers enforced?"

Mr Kray: "They helped."

Mr Goldberg: "The degree of violence today you say is not necessary?"

Mr Kray: "There was no violence, in as much as there was a bit, but women and children were safe."

Mr Goldberg: "Your brothers insisted on that?"

Mr Kray: "They did." He told the court: "I never thought that by telling stories I could get into trouble, but I am now. I swear on the grave of my son I have never been serious about drugs."



The Kray brothers in London in 1965: left to right, Ronnie, Reggie and Charlie

Husband 'burnt £100,000 after wife walked out'

By JOANNA BALE

A MAN told a court yesterday that he burnt £100,000 in his back garden after withdrawing it from a joint account he shared with his former wife.

Raymond Orton said the money was intended to provide him and his wife, Brenda, with a comfortable retirement. When the marriage ended he became depressed and decided to dispose of it, along with £25,000 from the sale of shares.

Mr Orton, 62, told Gloucester County Court: "I did it in the back garden. I got a big tin, put some newspaper in, set light to that and just slung the money on." He said he had been unable to cash the cheque from the joint account at the Halifax immediately, so he took it to the foreign exchange counter of a Birmingham post office and cashed it for Irish currency.

"I just wanted some cash to burn," he said. "I was going to have Spanish pesetas but it was too much paper."

Mr Orton, from Sheldon, Birmingham, is accused of breaching an undertaking not to dispose of any joint assets from the marriage pending a hearing into an application by his former wife for ancillary relief. Paul Barclay, for Mrs Orton, said she did not want to see her former husband sent to prison despite him having disposed of most of their joint assets of £197,000. Mr Barclay said: "Nevertheless, this is a most unhappy matter. If he is telling the truth then he has disposed of the largest portion of their assets."

Mrs Orton, 61, left her

husband in November 1995 and he became severely depressed after she refused a reconciliation. He first withdrew £100,000 last year but paid it back on the orders of a county court judge.

Mr Orton told the court that it was his account but he had it in joint names so that his wife would have easier access. He said: "It had come from an industrial accident and I built it up over 15 years. It was to make a reasonable retirement for both of us. I felt it was 15 years for nothing. It was all one big waste of time for me so I destroyed it."

He said that after burning the cash he dumped the tin and the ashes in his dustbin.

Mr Orton said that earlier he had tried to take his own life but had been stopped by his son and daughter. The suicide attempt had seriously affected his health and he was undergoing psychiatric treatment. He said he was on tranquillisers when he burnt the cash and was very confused. He denied claims that he had been secretive about financial matters and obsessed by money.

Adjourning the hearing for further inquiries, Judge Hunton said: "There is no verification of his most extraordinary evidence. It is a most extraordinary case. I am just not satisfied with his explanation and further inquiries will have to be made."

He told Mr Orton, who was not represented, that there was a risk of him being sent to prison and suggested he contact a solicitor.

Princess bids fond farewell to dress collection

By EMMA WILKINS

DIANA, Princess of Wales, said farewell to her collection of evening dresses for the last time last night before they were flown to New York, where they will be auctioned by Christie's on June 25.

At a private viewing in London yesterday, the Princess was told that £660,000 had been raised from sales of auction catalogues. A limited edition of 250 purple leather catalogues, at £1,250 each and signed by the Princess, has sold out. Cheaper versions of the same catalogue, which itemise all the dresses, are still available at £30 and £160.

All proceeds from catalogue sales, and from the auction, which is expected to raise £4 million, will go to the Royal Marsden Hospital Cancer Fund and the Aids Crisis Trust.

The collection will remain on public display at Christie's in St James's, central London, until Friday. Admission is by the £30 catalogue, which provides two tickets for the exhibition. The Princess's changing taste in clothes is evident from the collection, which includes gowns from 1981 to 1996.

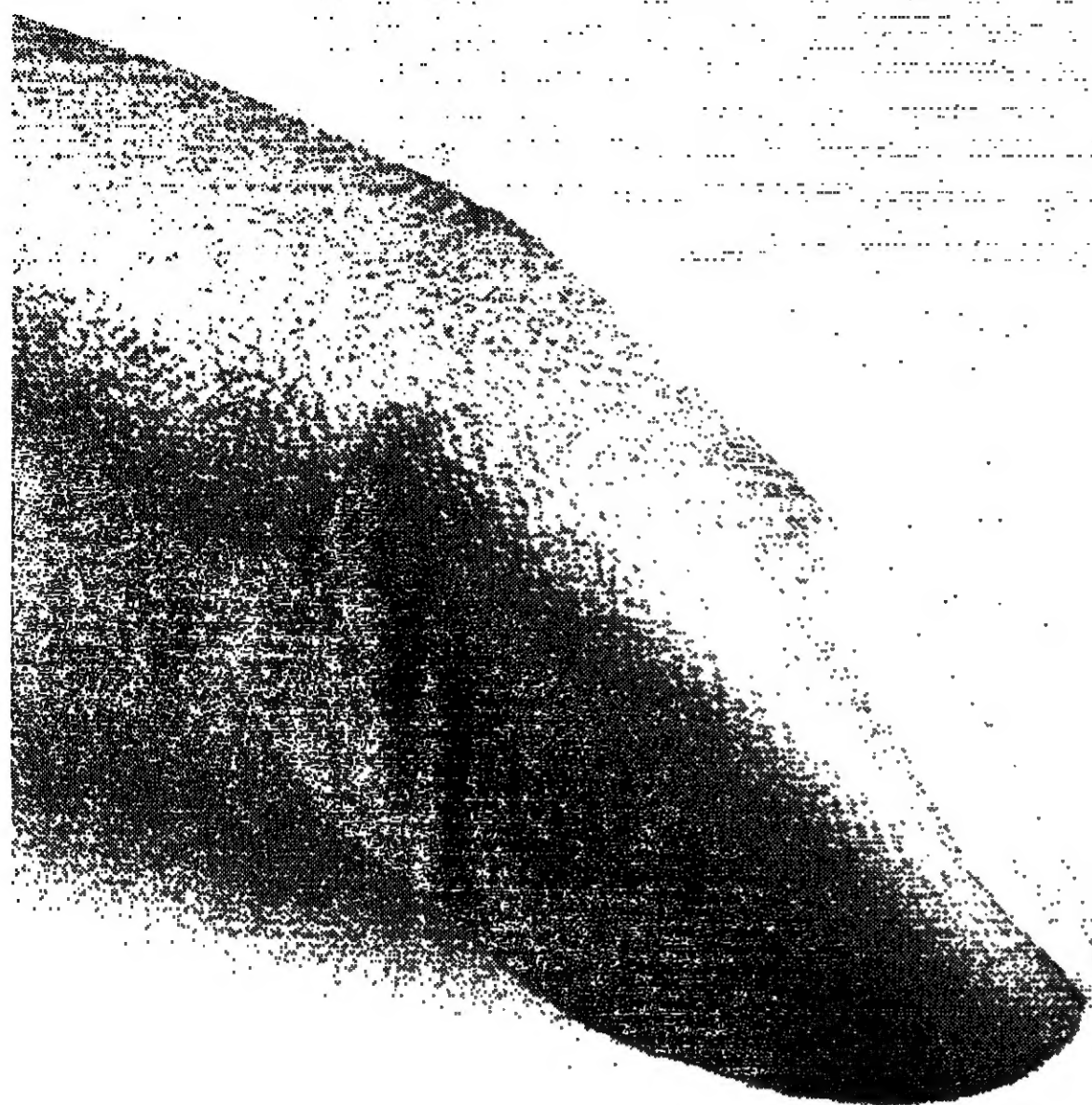
The earliest, Lot 23, is a pale blue confection by the Emmanuels — makers of her wedding dress. The most recent is Lot 51 — a navy blue sheath evening dress by Catherine Walker which the Princess wore in New York in 1996. The dresses range from size eight to 12.

Victor Edelstein, who designed one of the most stunning dresses in the collection, was unable to attend. His creation — a long sleeveless dress in oyster satin — is expected to fetch the highest individual price of about £200,000. The dress, which is featured on the front of the catalogue, was designed for a visit by the Princess to the Elysée Palace in 1988.

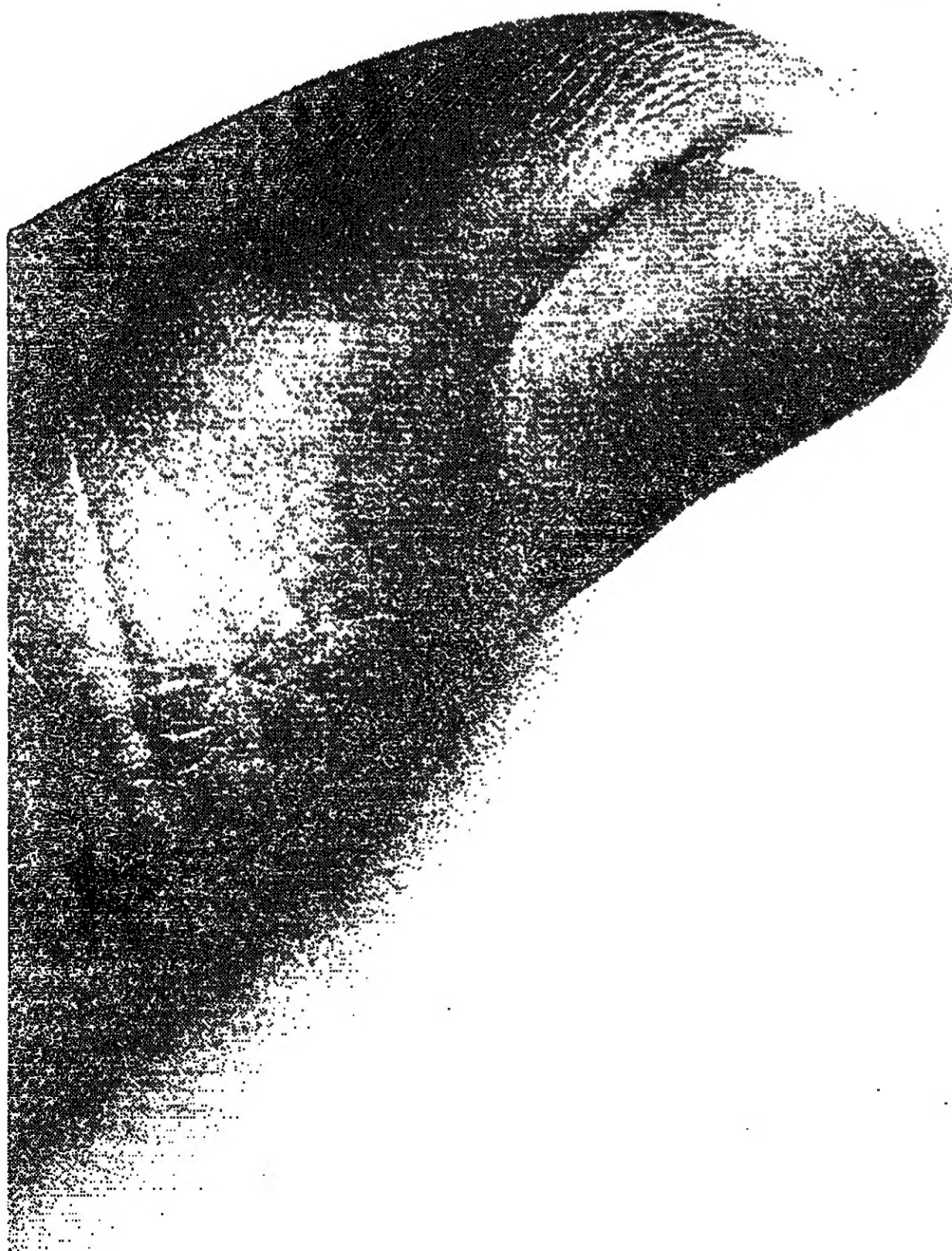
The dress is Lot 80 but there are only 79 dresses in the auction. The Princess is, apparently, superstitious and ordered there should be no Lot 13.

The dresses will be flown to New York in the next two weeks in a special crate so they can hang in their bags for the flight. A viewing will be held there on June 18.

Photograph, page 24



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Giant in Doll's House wins Tony for best actress



Plummer, leading actor award for Barrymore

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE British production of Ibsen's *A Doll's House* has been garlanded on Broadway with four Tony Awards, including best actress for Janet McTeer.

The version of Ibsen's 1879 classic, which moved to New York in April after a successful West End run, was named best revival at an awards ceremony in New York on Sunday night. McTeer, the critics' overwhelming favourite, won best actress for her performance as Nora Helmer, the distraught wife who struggles for independence in her stifling marriage to the bank manager Thorvald.

McTeer, 35, from York, graduated from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts alongside Fiona Shaw and Ralph Fiennes and is best known for her title role in the television series *The Gover-*

nor. She also played Vita Sackville-West in the television drama *Portrait of a Marriage* and performed on the West End in *Much Ado About Nothing* and in Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* before winning an Olivier Award during the London run of *A Doll's House*.

Accepting her Tony, the towering actress, her hair cropped in a boyish style, said: "This all started when I took out our producer, Thelma Holt, got her very drunk and managed to persuade her that I was 5ft 2in and girly. Actually, I think she thought I wanted to play Thorvald."

McTeer's performance has been lauded by American reviewers as one of the best in memory. *Variety* described it as a whirlwind and one *New York Times* critic wrote that her "apparition on Broadway



Janet McTeer celebrates her Tony for best actress in *A Doll's House* with a helping hand from awards ceremony presenter Alec Baldwin

suggests the theatre's timely answer to the Hale-Bopp comet.

Owen Teale, one of three other actors transplanted to New York with the London production, was named best featured actor for his part as Thorvald, after the producers asked for him to be moved to

that category from best leading actor. Anthony Page won best director.

This year's Tony Awards, staged in the 6,200-seat auditorium at Radio City Music Hall and broadcast live on television in an effort to duplicate the success of the Oscars, were not without disappoint-

ments for British contenders. The 763 critics and theatre professionals who choose the winners awarded best play to Alfred Lhry's piece about Jews in the American South, *Last Night at Ballyhoo*.

Christopher Plummer won best leading actor for his one-man show *Barrymore*, about

the actor John Barrymore, over Brian Bedford in Dion Boucicault's *London Assurance*. Michael Gambon (*Skyline*) and Anthony Sher (*Stanley*). In a strong field of new musicals, the big winner was the much-ridiculed *Titanic*, an improbable song-and-dance about the sinking

of the ocean liner. *Titanic* sailed away from the competition with five awards: best musical, book, original score, scenic design and orchestration. The popular revival of the musical *Chicago* picked up six awards.

Theatre, page 34

Pupils win right to legal action over repairs

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO schoolboys won the right yesterday to take a council to court because their school is allegedly in such a poor state of repair that it is a health hazard.

The boys, both pupils at Childwall Comprehensive School, on Merseyside, claim water cascades down the blackboard whenever it rains because Liverpool City Council has not carried out repairs that would cost £2 million.

They took their case to Liverpool Magistrates' Court with their fathers, who are both parent-governors at the 1,350-pupil school. Simon Worthington, 14, dressed in his school uniform, was in court to hear the stipendiary magistrate, David Tapp, rule that there was a case for the council to answer and that a trial should go ahead. However, Alexander Salisbury, 15, had to miss proceedings because he was sitting his GCSE examinations in biology and French.

After the hearing, Simon said: "I am overjoyed by the result. We have got to see it through. The situation is impossible when it rains. In my form room sometimes half the blackboard cannot be used as water cascades down. We have to watch where we stand so that we don't get our feet wet in the puddles."

The boys and their fathers, with the support of other parents, claim that the build-

ing has become so dilapidated since it was built in the 1950s that lessons are impaired and the environment constitutes a danger to health.

The council denies any offences under the Environmental Health Act. It claimed in court that teenagers could not be complainants or prosecutors in criminal proceedings.

Ranjit Bhowe, for the council, said it was also clear that neither the boys nor their fathers were "persons aggrieved" and did not enjoy any "proprietary rights".

Mr Bhowe said: "The correct remedy is to make a complaint to the Secretary of State. He can then take into account the views of the local authority and the fact that there are budget constraints."

Timothy King, QC, for the pupils, said there was nothing in the law prohibiting a minor from bringing a case to court. He said: "This school is in an appalling state of repair and is prejudicing the health of all who attend, be they parent, child or teacher."

Liverpool City Council is expected to deny four charges of causing a statutory nuisance under Section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The case is expected to last four days and is likely to be heard on October 20 by Mr Tapp, who described the action as unusual. "I am not aware of anything similar," he said.

There is nothing to say that a minor can prosecute but then there is nothing to say that a minor cannot prosecute. I see no reason why these two boys should not go forward with their complaint."

After the hearing, Mr Worthington said the boys' legal costs were being underwritten by parents at the school.

THE BROADCASTING STANDARDS COMMISSION

Complaint from Mr Richard Chipperfield and Ms Anne Chipperfield, and a complaint from Mr Tony Hopkins - Summary of adjudication

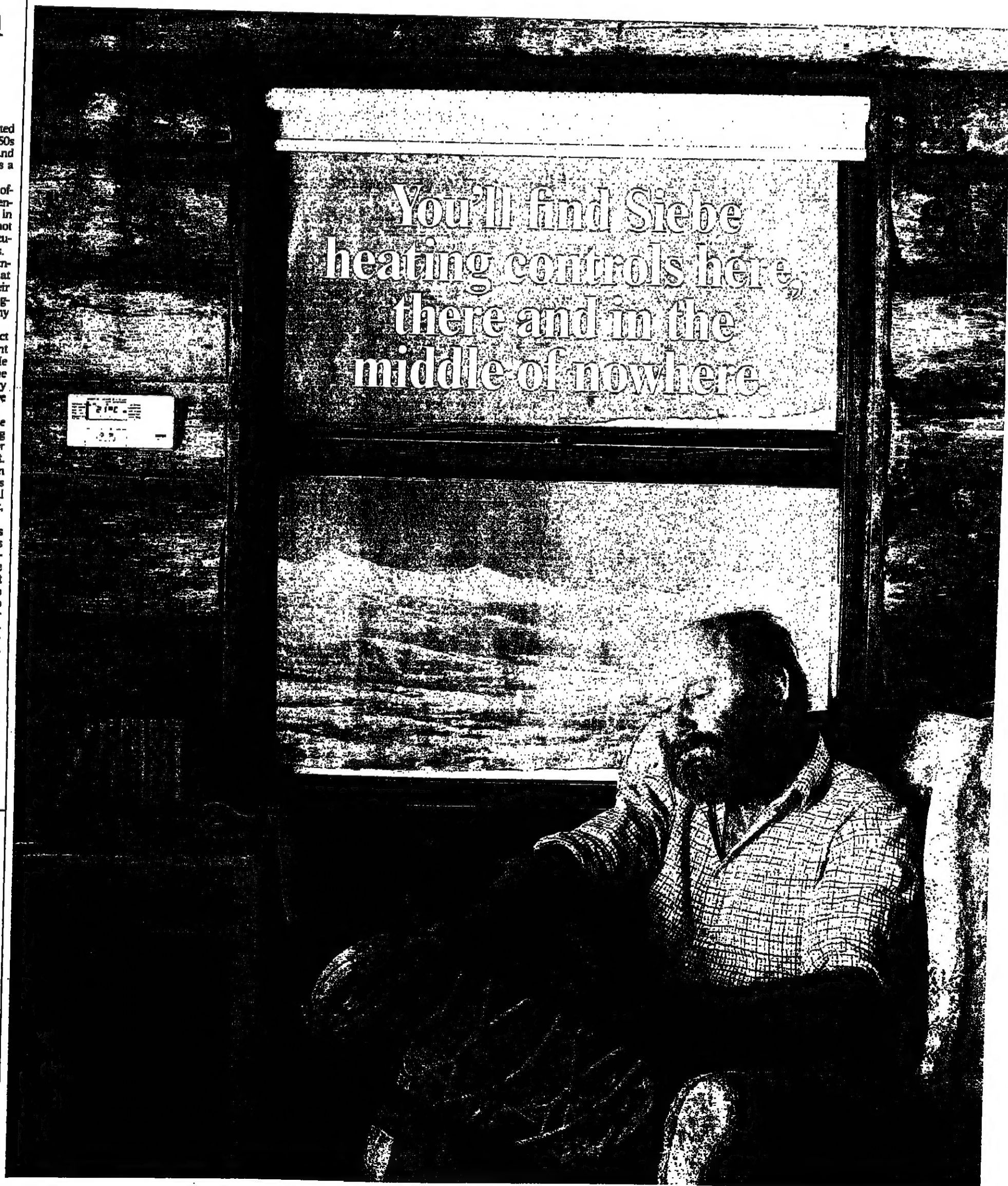
On 22 May 1996, the BBC programme *Here and Now* reported on the care of circus animals in winter quarters. The programme included video footage shot by an animal rights group on land owned by Mr Richard Chipperfield and Ms Anne Chipperfield. Mr and Ms Chipperfield complained to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission (now the Broadcasting Standards Commission) that the programme included pictures and comments which unfairly implied that their animals were kept in cramped, unsafe and stressful conditions, and that the filming unwarrantably infringed their privacy. Mr Tony Hopkins, trading under the name Chipperfields Circus, also complained that the programme was unfair to him in that viewers were misled into assuming that he had some responsibility for the welfare of the animals shown.

The Commission accepts that the investigation by *Here and Now* concerned a matter of public interest, but its reliance on a video shot by an animal rights group, to the virtual exclusion of other expert opinion, was unfair to Mr and Ms Chipperfield. The Commission recognises that the BBC made strenuous efforts to persuade Mr Chipperfield to take part, but his refusal to participate in a programme-makers of their obligation to provide a fair and balanced treatment of a complex and emotive issue. The video shots on and of Mr and Ms Chipperfield's property clearly infringed their privacy, and the unfairness of the programme's treatment of the issue undermined the BBC's argument that such infringement was warranted in the public interest. The Commission therefore finds both unfairness and an unwarranted infringement of Mr and Ms Chipperfield's privacy.

The Commission does not consider that the programme's attempt to film Chipperfields Circus was in itself unfair, but by its use of a still of the circus and a poster advertising it, the programme had the effect of associating Mr Hopkins with the alleged ill-treatment of animals which he did not own and were not in his care. This was unfair.

The Commission therefore upholds the complaints by both Mr and Ms Chipperfield, and by Mr Hopkins.

You may obtain a copy of the full adjudication by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: The Broadcasting Standards Commission (F), 7 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS.



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No takers for 'welfare to work' among single mothers on council estate

Blair walks on the wild side to meet forgotten people

By ALAN HAMILTON

FOR his first foray since taking office into the real world of the people who voted for him, Tony Blair chose the third most deprived ward in the London Borough of Southwark.

But the Aylesbury estate, a mighty sprawl of 44 early 1970s council blocks deep in Harriet Harman's constituency behind the Old Kent Road, is bad enough. Of its 2,400 households and estimated 8,000 population, only a third own their own homes, more than half are on housing benefit, 17 per cent of households are without a wage-earner and more than three-quarters of all 17-year-olds are neither in work nor full-time education.

It was not, perhaps, the most fruitful ground in which to plant the seeds of "welfare to work". Take away the media circus, the council worthies, the voluntary workers and a small group of youths learning basic computer skills in the estate's retraining centre, and there was a distinct absence of ordinary residents lining their balconies to greet the Prime Minister.

Some, to be fair, were waiting for Mr Blair in the CadCam training centre, a

suite of rooms deep in the estate where jobless youths are taught basic computing skills. Maura Santos, manager of the centre, said that in five years 3,000 people had been trained there, more than three-quarters of whom had gone on to jobs or further education.

Sue Lomas was not one of them. She did the computer course, took a degree at South Bank University and is still looking for work. "The jobs are just not out there. I've been looking for a job for five years and all I've done in that time is voluntary work. That doesn't give you any monetary value when you go for interviews."

Aylesbury estate has a high proportion of single mothers, most of whom stayed well away from Mr Blair's visit, perhaps out of fear that he might frogmarch them to the jobcentre there and then, despite government assurances that it would not force single parents into work.

Pauline Harris, 21, was standing at a safe distance with her five-month-old daughter, Danielle. A trained dental nurse, she said she was not working and received £80.10 per week in state benefits. "It would be a breath of

fresh air to go back to work, but I wouldn't want to leave the baby with someone I didn't trust. Frankly, some of the childminders and nurseries they offer you round here are just terrible. I wouldn't go near them."

She calculated that she could not afford to go back to work. "I'm better off on benefit and seeing my baby, rather than going out to a job for £150 a week and leaving her with a minder. Single mothers won't be fighting for jobs until there are far better care facilities."

Gina Stokes, another single mother, was perched on a sunny wall nursing Stuart, aged one, the youngest of four children who ranged up to 11. Miss Stokes, a former cashier, had no mind at present to look for work. "I like bringing the kids up. I wouldn't want to look for work until Stuart is at least three or four. I get £200 a week in benefits, so I'm not going out to work for less than £300 or £400 a week, and there ain't many jobs like that around here."

The mothers of Aylesbury estate were agreed that the hardest thing in their area was bringing up children in an atmosphere free from crime. Kevin Holland, the estate's community policeman, said that crime levels had dropped since the removal of the overhead walkways connecting the blocks of flats, which formed ideal escape routes for burglars and muggers, and since the introduction of private security guards.

Ms Lomas added: "They've reduced break-ins, but there's still plenty of crime among kids. They get expelled from school, or thrown out of youth clubs for being naughty, and they take to wheeler-dealing on the streets. They've got status if they've been expelled."

She added: "There's such apathy here — the only way you can get money for a place like this is to have a riot. Otherwise there's no jobs and no hope for the young."



Gina Stokes with her children yesterday. She said she would not work for less than £300 a week.



Pauline Harris with Danielle: "I'm better off on benefit and seeing my baby"

Labour studied examples in United States and Australia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

TWO vastly different programmes, in the United States and Australia, were studied by the Government when it was formulating its proposals to get single parents back to work.

In the United States, limits have been set for the first time on the benefits available to those on welfare. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act will mean thousands of single mothers are required to find work within two years. Individual states must place a five-year cap on benefits and compel a single parent to work or train for

employment once his or her child reaches three months.

This departure from the status quo in a country where young, poorly-educated, unskilled mothers have traditionally stayed at home with their children, has been applauded by many Americans increasingly intolerant of single parents who rely on welfare to raise a family. But it is already creating a vast demand for childcare, as, over the next few years, an additional 2.5 million children now at home on welfare may require facilities.

In Australia, Bob Hawke's Labor Government introduced the Jet programme in 1989. Under the voluntary scheme, standing for Jobs, Education and Training, single parents can increase their incomes by finding paid work, or undergoing a job-related training or study.

A single parent studying on a Government-approved course is eligible for a small weekly education supplement, in addition to his or her sole parent pension. Extra money is available to pay for enrolment fees and books. Home study is included in the options available.

Mrs Naidoo told the tribunal that Chris Boothman, the legal director, who is black, had deliberately given her low marks in an interview when she applied for the job of principal legal officer in 1995, a post she had previously held between 1985 and 1989 before taking unpaid leave to study for a doctorate. "I did not get that job because Mr Boothman gave me low markings, because of his vendetta against me," Mrs Naidoo told the tribunal. She failed to get the job by just four marks.

She also accused Mr Boothman of trying to favour Selina Hayden, a black candidate for the job, by setting a question on the legal response to racist leaflets, a topic that Mrs Hayden had been dealing with two weeks before the interviews in August 1995.

Mr Boothman had frustrated her career since she returned to the commission to work in the complaints department in 1993, Mrs Naidoo said. She was passed over for the job of principal legal officer in 1994 and made an application to an industrial tribunal, which was later withdrawn, that she had been racially discriminated against when refused that post. She said that Mr Boothman had

Racial equality commission 'discriminates against Asians'

By MARK HENDERSON

THE Commission for Racial Equality systematically discriminated against Asian staff and blocked the promotion of a well-qualified Asian lawyer for racial reasons, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Raj Naidoo, a South African-born Indian barrister who works for the commission, told the London South industrial tribunal that she had been victimised by the commission's legal director and twice passed over for promotion in favour of less experienced and less qualified candidates from outside the organisation. She said that Asians suffered routine discrimination from the predominantly Afro-Caribbean commission.

Approximately 60 per cent of the CRE's staff were black, Afro-Caribbeans, while only 17 per cent were Asian.

Mrs Naidoo told the tribunal that Chris Boothman, the legal director, who is black, had deliberately given her low marks in an interview when she applied for the job of principal legal officer in 1995, a post she had previously held between 1985 and 1989 before taking unpaid leave to study for a doctorate. "I did not get that job because Mr Boothman gave me low markings, because of his vendetta against me," Mrs Naidoo told the tribunal. She failed to get the job by just four marks.

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pursued a vendetta against her after this, had advised her to leave the commission and had tried to block her promotion.

She also alleged that Aubrey Rose, the chairman of the appointments commission, who is Jewish, had been influenced to select the successful applicant, Barbara Cohen, because she was Jewish.

The commission's solicitor, Paul Nicholls, said that Mr Boothman and Mr Rose had acted with "absolute correctness" throughout the procedure leading to Mrs Cohen's appointment. He told the tribunal that while Mrs Naidoo's experience was considerable, the job of principal legal officer had changed since she left it in 1989, and that the commission had been entitled to consider Mrs Cohen's qualifications and experience as equal to Mrs Naidoo's.

He said that the question Mrs Naidoo claimed was set to give Mrs Hayden an advantage did not put Mrs Naidoo at a disadvantage, because she had extensive experience in the same field.

Rudy Narayan, Mrs Naidoo's representative, said that Asians had been systematically discriminated against within the commission for years. He said that the commission perpetrated "racial injustice and discrimination". He also told the tribunal that Ann Winterton, a Conservative MP, Graham Riddick, a former Conservative MP, and Lawrence Cunliffe, a Labour MP, had attacked alleged racism within the organisation as "hypocritical, divisive and anachronistic".

A controversial former barrister, Mr Narayan was disbarred in 1994 after allegations of financial impropriety. In December 1995, he referred to the British police as killers after the death of a young black man, Wayne Douglas in police custody. Mr Narayan said: "They will not understand what they have done until one of them is killed." Riots broke out an hour after he addressed a crowd. The case continues.

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Mensa hits rich seam in mining village

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A PIT village school in South Wales has a record number of pupils, 14, who have reached the qualifying score for membership of Mensa.

Only 2 per cent of those usually tested satisfy Mensa's requirement of an IQ of 148. Experts were astounded when 23 per cent of entrants from Brynmawr Comprehensive reached the mark.

Mensa officials moved last week's Junior Convention from Cambridge to the town in recognition of the feat. Now they have launched a national offer of free testing to establish whether other schools have unrecognised talent on a similar scale.

Robert Allen, who edits Mensa's newsletter, said: "Bright children are not always obvious. A couple of the successful ones at Brynmawr



Intelligence corps: the high-IQ children of Brynmawr Comprehensive School

were a surprise to the school. High intelligence isn't confined to a particular social group, and we want to reach kids who wouldn't think of joining an organisation like Mensa."

Clive Boulter, Brynmawr's head teacher, decided to enter a group of pupils for the test to boost their confidence. The town, with a population of 5,445, is ranked among the poorest in Wales, with 13 per cent unemployment.

Mr Boulter said: "I was

confident that a reasonable number of pupils would pass the test, but I was quite amazed when the results came through. I am absolutely delighted because it shows what our pupils can achieve and it is a big confidence boost for the whole village."

Liz Norton, who has an IQ of 155 and is the 15-year-old daughter of the deputy head teacher, said: "People expect us to be weird, but we're as normal as anyone else. I think my dad is a bit jealous because

I'm a member of Mensa and he isn't."

Mr Allen organised the convention, at which 40 children tackled practical problems, produced a plot for a novel and took part in music and drama workshops. He said: "We have always had the junior convention in Cambridge, but Brynmawr did so brilliantly that it seemed an appropriate place to meet. Statistically, we expected to find about seven at this level in the school."

Disused church forced to reopen for a day to grant father's dying wish

By JOANNA BALE

A BUSINESSMAN conducted his father's funeral yesterday after a vicar refused to perform the service in a disused church.

Philip Powell said that his father Albert's dying wish was for the ceremony to be in St Decumanus church, in Rhoscowther, Pembrokeshire, which the 80-year-old had cared for since it closed three years ago.

In spite of repeated requests from the Powell family, the Church refused to allow the building to be used. Officials said it would be wrong to hold a service for Mr Powell, who had been a member of the congregation, when similar requests had been turned down.

The Rev Tony Turner, the vicar, wanted the service to be held in the village hall.

Philip Powell, 46, of Surrey, threatened to smash open the doors if he was not allowed into the church. By yesterday morning the doors had been opened. Mr Powell said that "divine intervention had done the trick" and held the service with the help of an undertaker. A graveside service was later conducted by an archdeacon.

Mr Powell said: "I'm very angry that the Church refused to hold a service for my father in the building he loved. My father was a religious man and the Church should have respected his wishes. He looked after that church even after it closed and tended the graveyard free of charge every week."

He said his mother, Florence, 79, was upset about the dispute but had left him to arrange the funeral. Mr Turner said that because

others had requested services after the church was closed an exception could not be made.

The church once served 180 parishioners in 33 homes but was shut because of dwindling congregations. Almost everyone moved out of Rhoscowther after Texaco, which

runs a nearby oil refinery, offered to buy them out. The company relocated villagers who disliked being so close to the plant. Albert and Florence Powell were among the few who stayed. Before his death, Mr Powell said: "The only way I'm going is in a wooden box."

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Think-tank savages Major over EU



Thatcher: 1988 speech led to creation of group

BY JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Bruges Group, a Tory Eurosceptic think-tank headed by Baroness Thatcher, will mount a fierce attack this week on John Major and his policy towards Europe.

The think-tank will accuse Mr Major of losing the general election with his policy on Europe, and compare his alleged failure to stand up to Brussels to Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler in 1938. In a pamphlet being published this week, the group claims that Mr Major equivocated and put party management before the interests of the country.

Lady Thatcher is honorary president of the Bruges Group, which was set up after she set out her anti-federalist

credo in a speech in the Belgian town in 1988. The group chiefly comprises academics who are hostile to Europe, and Tory peers and MPs.

The pamphlet, entitled *John Major and Europe - The failure of a policy, 1990-97*, was written by Martin Holmes, an Oxford University academic and co-chairman of the group.

"On Europe, John Major blew it," he says. "As Neville Chamberlain is remembered as the Prime Minister of Munich, so will John Major be remembered as the Prime Minister of Maastricht. Major's European policy was an unequivocal failure, the legacy of which the Conservative Party will wrestle with in opposition for perhaps too long."

Mr Holmes accuses Mr Major of making "Eurosceptical noises" during

the first and last stages of his premiership in a phoney attempt to keep his party together. At the same time, he says Mr Major was a Euro-enthusiast "when it mattered", namely in 1992 and 1993, when he forced the Maastricht treaty through Parliament and struggled to keep sterling locked into the exchange-rate mechanism.

For Mr Major the issue was "a function of party management", Mr Holmes says. "He kept the party together by subordinating the national interest to party management." This "dark secret" bound Mr Major and his Euro-enthusiast supporters together, blinding them to the impending electoral nemesis.

More specifically, Mr Holmes says that Mr Major's "wait-and-see" policy towards British membership of a

single European currency "lacked all intellectual and political credibility" and could not command respect from enthusiasts or sceptics.

He also accuses Mr Major of defying a growing public hostility towards the European Union and thereby missing a great opportunity to lead his party in a more Eurosceptic and electorally successful direction. "He failed to adjust to the changed agenda of the inrushing intellectual Eurosceptical tide. Consequently, Major successfully held his party together but at the cost of hastening its electoral defeat."

Mr Major could have built on Lady Thatcher's Bruges speech and changed Britain's relationship with Europe, Mr Holmes says, had he not been so "obsessed with the reaction of the Conservative Eurofanatics".

Lawyers split over vote to end trainees' minimum pay

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SOLICITORS' leaders in England and Wales will vote this week on whether to scrap the mandatory minimum salaries that law firms must pay trainees.

The profession is deeply divided over the proposals, which critics say are a retrograde step that will close access to careers in law for all but the rich. The minimum salary for trainees (formerly known as articled clerks) is £10,850 a year for a figure unchanged since 1992 and amounting to £5.21 an hour (£5.35 in London).

Many solicitors argue that small firms that were badly hit in the recession can no longer afford the minimum salary and removing it would open up more training places. The proposals are opposed by many young solicitors, including the Trainee Solicitors Group which represents 27,000 trainees.

Mark Dillon, last year's chairman, said: "Removal of the minimum salary has been served up on a platter as a relatively painless way of attempting to lessen the burden on the small firm at minimum cost to the profession."

He said the move was not only wrong in principle and against the political trend towards a minimum wage but

it would fail to achieve its objective. Research had shown that only a few small firms made use of a proviso allowing them to pay less than the minimum. Nor were firms deterred from providing training places; the number had risen in recent years.

He said there was no evidence that removal of the minimum would provide many more places and there was concern about the quality of training that firms could provide if they paid less than the minimum.

Hannah Wiskin, chairwoman of the group, said many solicitors in favour of abolition came from the big City firms that paid trainees as much as £23,000. Abolition would mean that students would stop applying to small firms. "Students arrive with huge debts — on average £5,000 — and our research shows they are not prepared to work for as little as £5,000 a year."

Charles Elly, former president of the Law Society, said: "We ought to retain the minimum salary if we want people coming in from all backgrounds. The minimum salary ensures that those who come from less privileged backgrounds are able to enter and that they should not go through their degree course, vocational course and then



Matthew Fresco's encounter with one law firm "was like being treated by a 19th-century mill owner — horrific"

Sacked after ten days — for someone at half the salary

arrive at the training without a guarantee of the salary they will receive at the end of it."

Tony Gilling, president of the Law Society, said: "Of course I have concern about student debt and trainees being used as court fodder. But one has to look at the growing number of firms who now seek waivers from the minimum — something like 450 in the last 30 months."

Firms in areas such as his own, east Kent, had difficulty in operating a minimum. "It's a very different problem from the City. Here trainees often live at home and accept the opportunity is more important than the salary." He favoured recommended guidelines, which would be higher than the current minimum.

Law, pages 35, 37

MATTHEW FRESCO'S battle to obtain a trainee place was nothing out of the ordinary. A mature student with a psychology degree — though not from one of the prestige universities — he had to send off hundreds of letters while doing his one-year solicitors' vocational course (Frances Gibb writes).

"I decided to go for parallel work, which is thought to be a way in, a sort of stepping stone if you can't find a traineeship," he said.

It seemed to have been a good move. He landed some work with the leading City law

firm Richards Butler and, from then on, even the letters of rejection improved in tone. "People see you are at Richards Butler and they think better of you immediately," Mr Fresco said.

Then came the breakthrough. A small High Street law firm in Hounslow offered him a six-month trial period, leading to a training contract at the end of it. Mr Fresco, 29, left Richards Butler and started work on a salary of £9,000. Ten days into the trial period he was told the firm could no longer employ him.

"First they said the partner-

ship had broken up. But then I discovered they had found someone else who was prepared to work for half the money I was. I was absolutely furious. It was like being treated by a 19th-century mill owner — horrific. I found it almost impossible to believe. One minute I have a good job and a career ahead of me, and the next minute they snatch it all away."

According to the Trainee Solicitors Group, firms have even suggested to trainees that they go on social security in order to avoid the firm having to pay any salary.

Time to listen to a tale of despair

SANE, the mental health charity, has been asking patients with schizophrenia how they are coping with the freedom provided by life in the community. The survey has been published today to coincide with Schizophrenia Day.

The report presents a terrifying story of lonely, anxious people, bewildered and puzzled by their symptoms, who are living for days at a time without normal social contacts or the support of the professional health team.

The isolation can drive patients to despair and suicide, and the lack of encouragement to continue with their drug therapy all too easily results in the emergence of symptoms which can lead to violence.

Marjorie Wallace, the chief executive of SANE, said: "Psychiatrists and GPs often appear to be reluctant to give patients sufficient time or un-



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

derstanding. This leaves seriously ill people isolated and at increased risk of suicide. As the result of the hospital-bed closures, patients no longer receive in-patient care for more than a day or two. Now they feel abandoned by the medical profession and the public, and have lost hope."

In the group of patients surveyed, fewer than one in ten had a place at a day centre and even fewer had been offered any form of psychotherapy. About the same number, just under 10 per

cent, admitted to feeling so hopeless that they were storing up their pills so they could commit suicide.

Schizophrenic patients, and their families, suffer their worst problems when prescribed medication has been rejected. Ms Wallace is not entirely surprised because she thinks too many patients are treated initially with outdated and unnecessarily unpleasant drugs, even though better ones are available. She also feels too little time is spent explaining possible side-effects. The

result is that patients are surprised when, for instance, their hearts race.

Time is also needed to listen to patients' worries, enabling those who hear voices to talk about it. After an understanding discussion the commands of hallucinatory voices become less imperative and more compatible with a life in the community.

The latest anti-psychotic drugs are more expensive but have far fewer side-effects and are much better at restoring a personality — as long as they continue to be taken. Any additional expense is more than compensated for by their cost-effectiveness, which provides a better lifestyle for the patient and the family, reduces the costs of recurrent readmission to hospital and makes the patient less of a financial burden on other social service budgets.

Youths mug MP on the Underground

Police are hunting a gang who robbed Helen Brinton, the Labour MP for Peterborough, as she prepared to board a train on the London Underground. Ms Brinton, 42, was robbed on Sunday while returning from her constituency to her home in Faversham, Kent. The former English teacher at Rochester Girls Grammar School was jostled by a gang of youths who snatched her purse as she caught the train at Euston. She said yesterday: "My first feeling was one of feeling dirty, as if I had been physically abused. The next one was one of acute hysteria and terror." Ms Brinton plans to raise her concerns about crime with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and is calling for signs to be put up on the Underground warning of the dangers.

Deafness gene identified

British scientists have identified a gene that causes inherited deafness. Professor Steve Brown, of the Medical Research Council's mammalian genetics unit in Oxford, said one could not say what proportion of cases of such deafness the genetic defect caused, and that further research was needed. The conclusions are published in *Nature Genetics*, alongside a report by Dr Christine Petit from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, which arrives at the same result.

Swampy tunnel thwarted

Daniel Hooper, the protester better known as Swampy, was re-evicted from a tunnel at the site of an earlier demonstration on the route of the A30 in Fairmile, Devon. Hooper and eight others began digging the tunnel at night. The 8ft-deep shaft was discovered after 13 hours. He was escorted off the site, where he occupied a tunnel for six days in January, by police. The contractors said the tunnel was in a cordoned-off area around a badger sett.

Tom joins crew of SeaCat

A Super SeaCat ferry had its first voyage disrupted yesterday by a feline stowaway. The cat had boarded the Sea Containers vessel and was muddling up the craft's communications as it sailed towards Dover. The cat, named Tom by the crew, who intend to adopt it, was found behind an electrical panel on the bridge. "Tom was the shipyard cat at the Financieri yard in Italy where the SeaCat was built," a Sea Containers spokesman said.

Punt and disorderly

Rival punt firms in Cambridge have been ordered by police to stop their staff arguing over customers or face breach of the peace charges. Although no punches have yet been thrown, officers have been called three times to disputes between students working for Tyrrells and the Cambridge Punt Company on the River Cam in the city centre who have been undercutting each other as they tout for business.

Boy on male rape charge

An 11-year-old boy appeared at Nottingham Crown Court charged with the male rape of a 12-year-old. The boy, who was 10 at the time of the alleged offences, is charged with rape, theft of a pencil case and indecent assault. The case was adjourned for trial on October 22. The defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was bailed into local authority care.

Busiest surgeons 'safest'

Heart patients have fewer complications if the operations are carried out by the busiest surgeons, a study by an American doctor has shown. Major problems, including death and heart attacks, were suffered by 9.3 per cent of patients treated by doctors who annually did less than 70 angioplasties (a procedure using a balloon to clear arteries) but only 2.9 per cent for those who did 270 or more a year.

Motorcyclists attack car

A family attacked in their car by a gang of motorcyclists were in hiding last night, afraid that they might be targeted again. The family of four, including two young children, were surrounded by the five motorcyclists while driving through West Sussex. They were eventually forced to stop when a window was smashed with a crash helmet. Other motorists forced the gang to ride off.

Group 4 prisoner escapes

A prisoner is on the run after escaping from a Group 4 security van. Police say the 20-year-old man could be violent and should not be approached. He overpowered his two guards when the van taking him to Coventry Magistrates' Court halted in rush-hour traffic near Leicester. Police used a helicopter and dog-handlers to search the area. The man was due to face a charge of aggravated burglary.

Lavatory role of honour

A visiting German journalist was so impressed with the public lavatories along a 50-mile stretch of the Suffolk coast that he took photographs of them and, when he returned to Germany, wrote an article about them in the *East Frisia General Anzeiger*. Albrecht Schrieber carefully catalogued every lavatory between Ipswich and Lowestoft, remarking on their variety and their extremely high standard.

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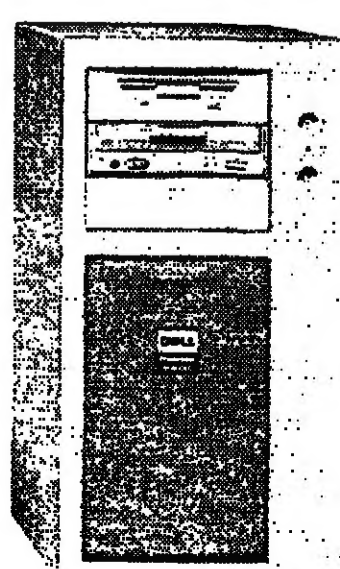
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MP on ground

who robbed Helen Brinton, the... as she prepared to board a... ground. Ms Brinton, 42, was... from her constituency... Kent. The former English... School was jailed for... her purse as she caught the... "My first feeling was... had been physically abused... and terror." Ms Brinton... about crime with Jack Straw... for signs to be put up on... of the dangers.

gene identified

identified a gene that causes... Brown, of the Medical... genetics unit in Oxford, said... of cases of such delirium... and that further research... published in *Nature Genetics*... Christine Petit from the Pasteur... at the same result.

tunnel thwarted

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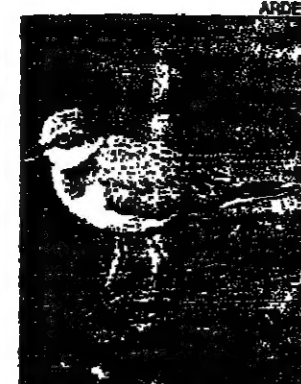
Earth Centre work 'obliterated 80 per cent of important botanical and butterfly habitat' in Don Valley



Marbled white butterfly



Bee orchid



Little ringed plover

£125m conservation project accused of destroying wildlife

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN INTERNATIONAL conservation project has been accused of destroying the very type of wildlife habitat it was set up to protect.

The £125 million Earth Centre, on the site of a former coalmine near Cadeby in south Yorkshire, was designed to demonstrate sustainable development for the 21st century and to illustrate how human beings could use the planet without damaging it. But contractors preparing the 350-acre site by the River Don are said to have bulldozed nesting sites of the protected little ringed plover, destroyed a colony of rare yellow ants and obliterated the only breeding ground in the county of the marbled white butterfly. It is also claimed that the work has jeopardised an attempt to reintroduce a butterfly so rare that conservationists will not identify it for fear of alerting collectors.

Before the arrival of the mining industry last century, the views along the Don were compared with those of the Loire Valley. In 1806, Sir Walter Scott, describing the area as "one of the most beautiful and striking scenes

in England", set part of *Ivanhoe* at the nearby Norman castle of Conisbrough. Conservationists were hoping that, with the closure of the last pit four years ago, the views would be reinstated. Independent nature lovers yesterday claimed that the Earth Centre, being built with the help of a £50 million lottery grant, had seriously damaged those aspirations. They are especially incensed by the destruction of a former limestone railway cutting called Cadeby Rantles, which has been filled with oillier spoil to make a temporary access road. It is claimed to be the only site in South Yorkshire where the slow worm can be found. The tons of slag are also said to have buried several unusual plants, including wild liquorice, the bee orchid, the common spotted orchid and adder's tongue.

John Law, 44, a local naturalist and ecology lecturer who has walked the area for more than 20 years, said: "I am devastated at what has happened. It was one of the most important botanical and butterfly sites in the country."

Local naturalists say they were assured during several meetings with Earth Centre staff that Cadeby Rantles would remain untouched. Now they claim it has been 80 per cent obliterated and that what habitat is left will be ruined by heavy lorries running up and down the access road. "When I went to the Earth Centre for an explanation I got a load of flannel," Mr Law said. "When I pointed out they had also wiped out nesting sites of the little ringed plover I was told they had only taken the top off. Where do they think these birds nest?"

Ted Rimington, 60, a former national habitat survey officer for the British Butterfly Conservation Society and author of a book on the area's butterflies, said: "When I saw the earthworks I was so sickened I had to turn back. I only walked the area a few weeks before and had no idea this would happen."

"To say I was horrified would be an understatement. All those beautiful plants have been destroyed by a massive roadway of slurry. We had raised food plants for a rare species of butterfly reintroduced to the site four years ago but this ham-fisted action has

probably destroyed the colony. The Earth Centre staff knew this was a delicate area. The great mistake we made was in trusting them. We took our eye off the ball. An area of beauty, peace and tranquillity has been ruined."

A spokesman for the Doncaster Naturalists Society said the yellow meadow ant's interdependence with a parasitic relative of the wood louse was a classic example of the type of thing the Earth Centre was supposed to illustrate, "how all sorts of plants and creatures depend on each other for their existence. They had an example on their doorstep

and have destroyed it."

The Earth Centre grew out of the Rio summit, where world leaders agreed that development should be achieved only by methods that would neither exhaust the world's resources nor pollute and destroy its natural habitat. The centre was designed as a living laboratory-cum-theme park, demonstrating a variety of environmentally friendly systems, such as organic farming.

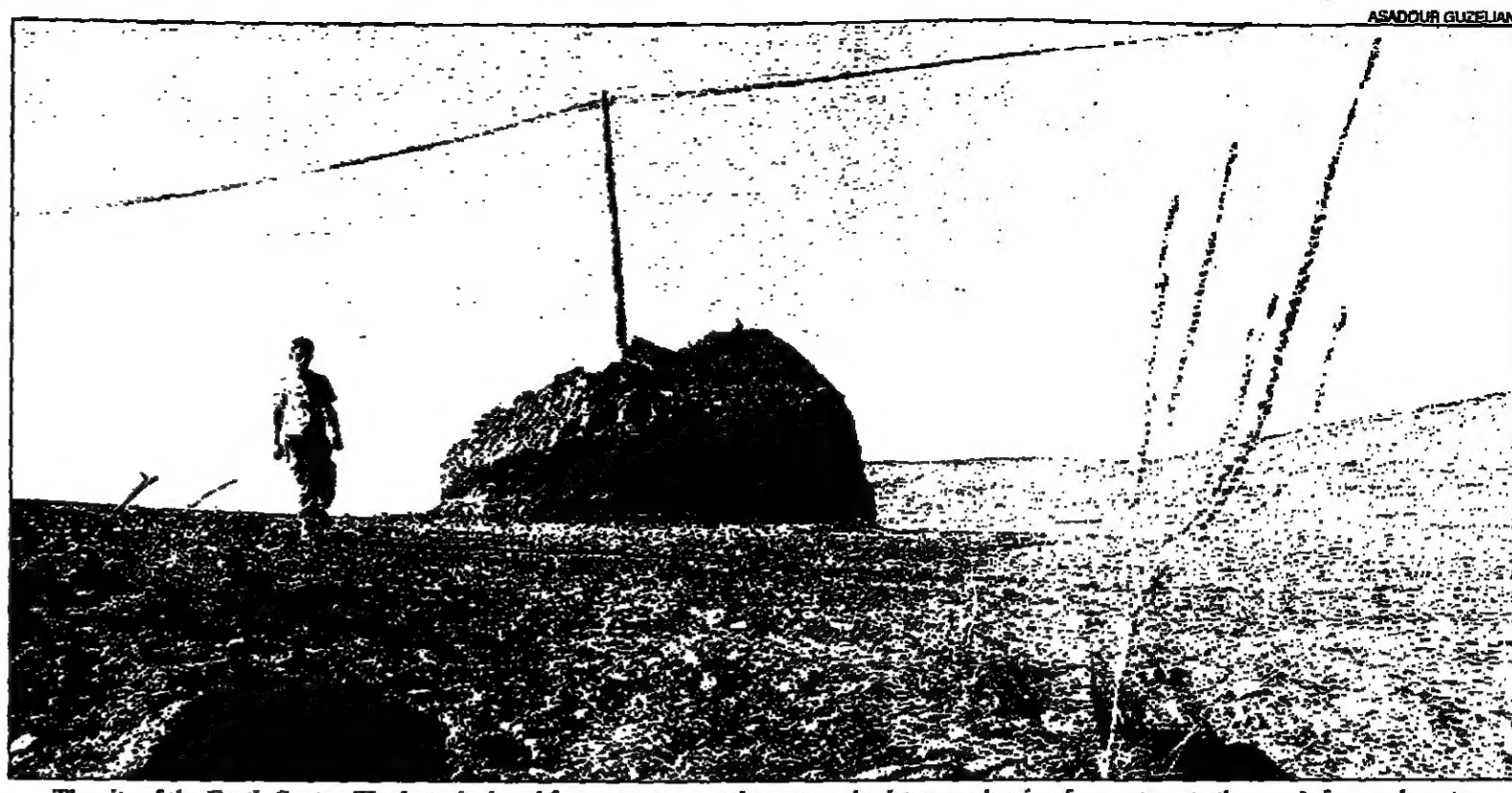
Partly sited on the reclaimed tip of Denaby Main, it will include a pavilion, called the Ark, which is twice as big as St Paul's Cathedral and de-

signed to look like a butterfly about to settle. It will cover a variety of landscapes, including several Sites of Special Scientific Interest. They range from unploughed magnesium grasslands, through wetlands by the Don to former sites of quarrying and coal extraction.

Dr Patrick Roper, of the centre's creative development team, maintained that there had been little damage. He said the marbled white butterfly would return and the orchids would recolonise. The ants were now thought to be extinct in mainland Britain. Dr Roper also denied that the cutting had been filled in. He

said: "We are aware the little ringed plover has nested in the past on spoil heaps near by, but no one has alerted us to the fact that it might be nesting this year. Without constant, careful briefing, the people using the heavy earth-moving equipment cannot be expected to be aware of all the conservation issues. Once they do they are as sympathetic as anyone else and will take great care not to cause any unnecessary damage."

"Our policy is to cherish the wildlife on our site and to take whatever steps we can to ensure it continues to flourish."



The site of the Earth Centre. The last pit closed four years ago and conservationists were hoping for a return to the area's former beauty

Prince calls for action to save world's forests

FROM PHILIP PANGALOS IN ATHENS

PRINCE Michael of Kent has called on governments to take action against deforestation. He said the current rate of global deforestation was 50 per cent higher than a decade ago and that the health and quality of forests was in decline.

The Prince told a conference organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature in Athens that there were 3,300 million hectares of forest remaining — half the area

that would have existed 10,000 years ago, he said — and that only 6 per cent was legally protected.

He said: "There is still a long way to go. I find it depressing that so many governments feel so little urgency. Forests in any part of the world can be well-managed, provided the political will is there. The WWF's goal is to halve and reverse the degradation of forests and woodland by the year 2000."



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Blair deserves praise for hiring talent from the real world

All the fuss about Tony Blair politicising Whitehall misses the point. The really novel, and striking, feature is how many non-political appointments the Blair Government has made, tapping a pool of experience and talent outside the conventional political world.

Yesterday, for example, Gordon Brown announced the four outside nominations to the Bank of England's new monetary policy committee. None can be described as partisan nominees. They are all both eminent and independent-minded — Professor Charles Goodhart, the leading banking

and finance economist; Dr DeAnne Julius of British Airways; Sir Alan Budd, who will be retiring as the Treasury's Chief Economic Adviser this autumn; and Willem Buiter, a leading international economist. If anything, some are almost too academic, without direct market experience, though this might have created conflicts of interest. These appointees should give credibility to the new monetary arrangements which are formally launched later this week.

Earlier examples including the appointment of Sir David, now Lord, Simon, the former chairman of BP, as Minister for trade policy

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

and the single market. Michael Heseltine brought in several businessmen to advise Whitehall, but the new Government has gone further in seeking non-Whitehall advice via a series of task forces involving outsiders, incidentally at little, or no, cost to the taxpayer. Martin Taylor, the chief executive of Barclays, will chair the task force on resolving the interaction between tax and social benefits, the Schleswig Holstein question of the welfare state. Few would quarrel

with the appointment of Professor George Bain, the principal of the London Business School, to be chairman of the Low Pay Commission which is to be set up to advise on the level at which the national minimum wage should be set.

These appointments are more important than the row about special advisers. The increase in the number of such politically appointed advisers does not yet represent a great change in the working of Whitehall. The number of advisers to ministers is being strictly limited and the expansion in 10 Downing Street has been to increase policy advice, as many

commentators on Whitehall affairs have urged. Indeed, the Government has imposed an entirely unnecessary straitjacket on itself by promising to keep the pay bill for such advisers to the same total as under the Tories. That means that senior advisers (some with experience from the last Labour Government) have had their pay held down.

The only real issue is whether the growth in the number of special advisers interferes with the Whitehall command structure and the impartial advice supplied by civil servants. This was specifically recognised in the Order in Council

on May 3 allowing Mr Blair to appoint three advisers (including Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell) who could give orders to civil servants. The dividing line between politics and the Civil Service is anyway blurred in 10 Downing Street. It has only been since 1928 that the principal private secretary has been a career civil servant, while the chief press secretary has previously been a political appointee or a journalist rather than a civil servant. Mrs Thatcher also had a political chief of staff, David Wolfson, for several years. Moreover, a number of advisers have become politically

committed under a particular Prime Minister and not returned to Civil Service posts.

The Blair premiership has so far involved strong central political direction and co-ordination. But the size of even the enlarged Prime Minister's office is still small by international standards. There are, admittedly, dangers in ministers just listening to an inner circle of politically trusted advisers, but the Blair Government has shown a welcome willingness to look outside to non-partisan businessmen and academics.

PETER RIDDELL

Labour's low-pay chief acknowledges risk of job losses

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

GEORGE BAIN, the new head of the Low Pay Commission, risked embarrassing the Government yesterday by conceding that the national minimum wage could lead to job losses.

Professor Bain, appointed yesterday to chair the body that will recommend the level for a statutory minimum wage, also suggested that the loss of some low-paid jobs would be a good thing. "Everyone is agreed that we want to set a rate which will do something for the low paid without costing jobs," he said. "I would be surprised if there were not some job losses, but the question is whether those jobs would be better lost anyway. Anyone who says they know what the impact will be is misleading you because there are so many imponderables."

But Professor Bain, principal of the London Business School, said there was certainly a need for a minimum rate and argued that sanctions should be imposed on firms that refused to pay it.

The Government tried to distance itself from his remarks about probable job losses. Labour spent most of the general election campaign denying that the wage would



Bain: says impact is not predictable

lead to job cuts unless it was set too high.

"The minimum wage will be set at a level that won't cost jobs," one Whitehall source said. Downing Street was more wary, insisting that if the minimum wage was set at the right level job losses were unlikely.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, had welcomed Professor Bain's appointment, saying that he was a respected and independent figure who would command the respect of both employers and employees. Yesterday trade union sources suggested that Professor Bain had been talking as an academic about the possibility of job losses. "Most people accept there will be some effect on jobs," one source said. "But nobody now

accepts the political argument that there will be hundreds of thousands of job losses. Professor Bain was not suggesting that."

Professor Bain suggested that the commission would recommend a level for the minimum wage by April, allowing time for it to be implemented next summer. But he is already under pressure from trade unionists to implement the statutory minimum wage by spring. Unions have called for different levels, most of which are between £4 and £4.50 an hour.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, said he believed that there would be no difficulty in setting a tight timetable. The Commission should recommend a figure by this autumn, giving the Government until Christmas to announce the new rate so that it could come into effect from April 1.

But Ruth Lee, head of the Institute of Directors' policy unit, said that the IoD remained strongly opposed to a minimum wage of £4 an hour and that introducing it by next April seemed hasty. Setting it at £4 was potentially "very destructive" and would be particularly damaging in areas such as retailing and textiles. "It is far too high," she said. "Even if the figure was £3 an hour then a lot of people would be affected."



Senator Mitchell and his co-chairmen in London yesterday after meeting Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam, below left



Belfast breaks political mould as talks resume

BY NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

NATIONALISTS took a huge step forward last night when Belfast City Council elected its first Roman Catholic Lord Mayor since Queen Victoria granted the city's Royal Charter in 1888.

Alan Maginness, 46, a Social Democratic and Labour Party councillor in Belfast for 12 years, was elected with the support of Sinn Féin and the Alliance Party. Today he will join other senior SDLP members at the multiparty talks that resume at Stormont after a two-month adjournment.

The talks will be chaired by Senator George Mitchell,

who held his first meeting with Tony Blair yesterday on his way from the United States to Belfast. At a 30-minute meeting in Downing Street they discussed ways of breaking the impasse that held up progress for almost a year.

Sinn Féin, which will be excluded until the IRA declares a ceasefire, will stage a publicity stunt outside the venue. Gerry Adams, the party president, insisted yesterday that Sinn Féin should be allowed to join the talks because of its strong electoral mandate.

His demands went unheeded yesterday after the IRA ended its unofficial ceasefire over the weekend by abandoning a 1,000 lb bomb in

West Belfast. Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, said ministers would review talks that officials are holding with Sinn Féin. He said there was no justification for the bomb, which was clearly targeted at the police and army.

Belfast's new Lord Mayor last night hailed his victory as a "breaking of the political mould". Mr Maginness, a barrister who is highly respected across the sectarian barriers in Northern Ireland, said one of his main objectives was to create a bond of trust between Protestants and Catholics. Unionists and Nationalists, leading to reconciliation and peace in a city that remained the most divided in Europe.

The film shows Mr Clarke in action in the Commons but the most effective clip is from the last party conference when a youthful looking William Hague led the applause for his more senior colleague.

William Hague had a 45-minute meeting with Baroness Thatcher yesterday. The former Prime Minister has declined to back any candidate in the first round but friends say that she may state her choice in the closing stages.

Clarke in video bid to boost his appeal

BY ANDREW PIERCE

KENNETH CLARKE, beer-drinking scourge of the Tory image-makers, finally succumbed yesterday when he launched a video appeal to wavering voters in the party leadership contest.

The decision to draft in a film company surprised friends and foes of the former Chancellor, who has refused so far to follow the example of the other five contenders and stage any press conferences.

Constituency activists who received copies of the video yesterday had an even bigger surprise when they played it. Mr Clarke, seen as a political heavyweight in more ways than one, had shed a stone, although his aides attribute that to a punishing general election rather than a desire to look lean for the cameras.

It was not the only dramatic change. The famously rumpled suits have been replaced by smartly pressed pinstripes, his tousled hair has been cut and combed and his trademark Hush Puppies are only briefly on view. But the 12-minute film does show him in a pub, clutching a pint and performing his favourite role as taproom raconteur.

Roddy Gye, managing director of GHA Communications, which made the film, said: "Kenneth Clarke is not the sort for soft focus lighting and bursts of atmospheric music. It is a straightforward film with a simple message: he is the man for the job."

The film shows Mr Clarke in action in the Commons but the most effective clip is from the last party conference when a youthful looking William Hague led the applause for his more senior colleague.

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Education law being rushed, say Tories

BY POLLY NEWTON

THE Government was accused yesterday of rushing through the abolition of the assisted places scheme without allowing MPs enough time to study details of the plan.

Labour is to phase out the scheme, which pays for children from low-income families to attend private schools, and use the savings to fund its commitment to reduce class sizes to a maximum of 30 by 2002 for pupils aged five, six and seven. The Education (Schools) Bill, which implements the measure, was given a second reading yesterday and will pass through its committee stage and third reading on Thursday.

Tories complained that the Bill had not been available to MPs until after the Commons rose for the Whitsun recess. Eric Forth, a frontbench education spokesman, questioned whether this gave adequate time for MPs to consider it properly and for interested parties outside the Commons to make their comments.

But Margaret Hodge, Labour MP for Barking, said that the Tories were simply unable to deal with a Government that kept its election pledges and did so quickly.

David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, insisted that the assisted places scheme was flawed. Nearly one third of those helped by it had already been at a private school before their application was approved, and more than half came from middle-class backgrounds.

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Sierra Leoneans demonstrate for peace after 20 are killed in dawn seafront bombardment

Nigerian gunboats shell Freetown coup leaders' base

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

FIGHTING swept through Freetown yesterday after Nigerian gunboats opened up a dawn bombardment in an attempt to topple the Sierra Leonean coup leaders.

The shelling killed about 20 people in the Aberdeen seafront district, and terrified residents fled with bundles of possessions on their heads. Witnesses said that several more civilians had been killed in the crossfire between the intervening Nigerian troops, on the one side, and Sierra Leonean soldiers and rebels allied to coup leaders.

Britain expressed alarm at the outbreak of military action, insisting that the coup leaders should be persuaded to step down by negotiation and peaceful means.

The Nigerian bombardment began in the early morning, directed into the western part of the city where the rebel leaders have their headquarters. Witnesses reported an entire family killed by incoming mortar shells. Small-arms fire was also heard in the city. The attack provoked anger from many Sierra Leoneans, including opponents of the coup, and thousands took to the streets, chanting "We want peace."

Troops supporting the rebels surrounded the city's main hotel where Nigerian soldiers were guarding about 75 Britons, 15 Americans and other foreigners seeking refuge from the violence.

Many of the civilians sought shelter in the Mammy Yoko hotel basement, as windows on the first and second floors were shattered by gunfire. "It's a fight for survival," one Nigerian officer said after six Nigerian troops were wounded. After a lull last night, there were hopes that a ceasefire could be negotiated. The Nigerians, part of a West African

peacekeeping force for Liberia that was stationed in Sierra Leone when the coup was staged on May 25, said they had seized control of the airport, north of the capital, after a brief fight with Sierra Leonean troops.

The force from the West African economic co-operation group, Econog, was reinforced by troops from Ghana and Guinea. The rebel troops sent out a helicopter during the day to fire back at the Nigerian gunships moored in the bay.

Peter Penfold, the British High Commissioner, has been attempting to persuade the rebel leader, Major Johnny Koromah, to step down and allow the return of President Kabbah, who has fled to Guinea. It was not known where he was last night, but he was thought to be travelling back from Guinea. Yesterday's attack followed the breakdown of talks that went on until late on Sunday night. Major Koromah refused to step down on Sunday, and named a 20-man council, including Foday Sankoh, the leader of the shadowy Revolutionary United Front (RUF) that has been fighting a bush war against the Government since 1991.

Three other RUF members were also appointed to the council. Mr Sankoh is being detained in a hotel in Abuja, the Nigerian capital. His telephone was cut off after he had called on the RUF to fight alongside the rebels.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that all British passport-holders who had asked to leave had been taken out. There were no plans to close the High Commission, but Mr Penfold had advised remaining Britons to stay indoors and keep their heads down.

Tony Lloyd, the Minister of State at the Foreign Office, thanked the Americans and French for their help in taking Britons out of Freetown to Conakry, in Guinea. Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General and a former Foreign Minister of Nigeria, said at the weekend that neighbouring countries had the right to intervene to restore order in Sierra Leone.

Harare: The Organisation of African Unity's annual summit opened here yesterday with statements of firm backing for any action necessary by the countries involved in Freetown to return Sierra Leone's elected Government to power. President Mugabe of Zimbabwe urged that "democracy be restored as a matter of urgency".

leading article, page 19

British major hurt in clashes

A BRITISH officer in Sierra Leone was hit by shrapnel in the head and back yesterday during clashes in Freetown, diplomats said (James Bone writes). Major Lincoln Jopp, on a training attachment as an adviser to the Sierra Leone government forces, had remained in the capital after last week's evacuation of British citizens as Nigerian troops massed to reverse a coup by low-ranking army officers. Major Jopp, of the Scots Guards, was hit after shelling between the British High Commission and an hotel in the capital where foreigners, protected by a small number of Nigerian troops, had been encircled by a much larger force of rebels backing the coup leaders.



Neimah Duncan, left, is overcome by emotion after arriving at Stansted with other evacuees to be welcomed by her daughter, Soraya

Tears and tales of terror at family reunions

By LIN JENKINS

MORE than 200 evacuees from the coup in Sierra Leone arrived back in Britain yesterday, including children reunited with their parents after being caught up in fighting.

Among them was Ramatta Conteh, the two-year-old girl found by an American hotel owner in Freetown with her passport in a purse around her neck. Others included missionaries, aid workers, businessmen, students and other children left with relatives in the West African country.

The 230 passengers, 126 from Britain and the Commonwealth, flew into Stansted airport at 5am from Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea, on a Foreign Office-chartered flight.

Ramatta finally met her mother, Isatu, a healthcare assistant at a London hospital, after passing through immigration and being met by Essex social services. She had been staying with her grandmother in Freetown for

'People have been raped and had guns pointed at their children. It is anarchy'

the past seven months but was found wandering alone by Roger Crooks on Friday. His fiancée, Vanessa Schillich, took Ramatta by helicopter to the USS Kearsarge, which delivered her to Guinea. There she was met by a cousin, who flew with her to Stansted. Other evacuated children told how Freetown descended into chaos around them. Jenovive Chinyere, nine, hid with her sister Rita, 13, and brother Anthony, 15, beneath their home. "They held guns to us in our neighbour's house," Anthony said. "They said they had been suffering for years and now it was their turn to enjoy. They came to our house and destroyed everything. What they could not take they shot. We hid under the house and they did not know we were there."

The children went to join their mother in south London yesterday while their father remained in Guinea, anxious about the fate of his business in Sierra Leone.

Three-year-old twins Daphne and Desphella Lewis flew back to Britain with their grandmother. Their father, Desmond, from northwest London, said: "They went to see their grandparents for the first time over eight weeks ago. We were worried sick about them. I'm so relieved to have them back."

Tears and tales of terror accompanied many reunions. Dido Kange trembled as he pulled from his suitcase a bullet-damaged padlock from the gate to his home. "They shot through the padlock. They were shooting between my legs," he said. "One had a rocket-propelled grenade-launcher and I said, 'If you fire that in here we

are all dead'."

His mother-in-law, Neimah Duncan, 55, said: "People have been raped, they have been beaten, and they have had guns pointed at their children. It is complete anarchy. There is no sense to it." She said she feared for her husband, Richard, who has remained to protect the family business.

Eddie Babin, 65, decided to leave two days after he saw his wife, four children and three grandchildren escape to safety. "I don't think I will go back. In my bedroom there are bullets like nobody's business. My son-in-law was jumping like he was skipping — they kept firing bullets at the floor saying they wanted money."

Edith Mayhew spent the night at the airport after flying from her home in Glasgow, not knowing if her children were on the DC10. It was only when Sammy, 18, and Graham, seven, emerged from the customs hall that she knew they were safe. "I can't believe they're back," she said.

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US relieved by record reduction in murder

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE murder rate in the United States dropped by a record 11 per cent last year and violent crime overall fell by 7 per cent, the largest drop since the Government first kept statistics 37 years ago.

Preliminary figures issued by the FBI yesterday suggest that for the first time violent crime has fallen below the levels that engulfed America in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The big cities of New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston all reported fewer murders in 1996. Among only a few notable exceptions to the trend was Washington where homicides rose by 36, making the city once again eligible for the dubious mantle of US murder capital.

The nationwide figure of 19,224 murders annually remains by far the highest of any Western democracy and the American South, which has a particular culture of violence, reported only a minor decrease of 2 per cent in violent crime.

In contrast, Britain had a relatively low total of 680 murders in 1996, a fall of 8 per cent, while violent crime as a whole rose by 11 per cent over the same period, the biggest increase for seven years. The total number of offences, however, fell by 1.3 per cent in 1996, the fourth consecutive drop.

President Clinton and Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, hailed the new statistics as a direct result of the Administration's anti-crime policies. "The continued downward trend over the past four years is further evidence we are on the right track with increased community policing, tougher penalties and greater juvenile crime prevention," Mr Clinton said.

Experts believe that the unprecedented drop has been caused by several factors, including the growing number of ageing baby-boomers who now account for one-third

of the population. Almost all violent crime is committed by young people. Another important component is thought to have been the apparent truce among drug traffickers over control of the crack cocaine market in America's inner cities. Despite an increase in drug use in the US, gang leaders have brought an end to the years of violent turf wars, marked out their territory and stabilised the market. Drive-by shootings and random killings are no longer an everyday occurrence.

"The maturation of the crack market accounts for a lot of the decrease," said James Fyfe, a criminologist at Washington's Temple University and a former police officer. "A lot of these kids are in jail or have killed each other off already to eliminate the competition. After a few years, strong and cunning people take control."

He said a similar pattern had emerged with alcohol in the 1920s, heroin in the 1960s, and cocaine in the 1980s. Police officials in the big cities believe that tougher federal gun control, combined with zero-tolerance policies for minor infractions, including graffiti, vandalism and petty crimes, have further contributed to the downward trend.

Ms Reno used the announcement of the figures to press Congress to pass Mr Clinton's youth crime Bill, which would provide more prosecutors, allow tougher penalties for gang-related violence and make it harder for teenagers to obtain guns.

James Fox, dean of the college of Northeastern University in Boston, said that the decline may only be temporary as more than 39 million children would reach their teens at the new millennium.

"Crime is down but not out," he said. "They will be teenagers before you can say 'juvenile crime wave', and whether those kids turn to violence depends on us."



Postman's knock: the former Sears Catalogue distribution centre in Kansas City starts to collapse after a controlled explosion of more than a ton of dynamite. An \$84 million (£51 million) processing centre for the US Postal Service will be built on the site

Canada poll dominated by Quebec

By TOM RHODES

CANADA went to the polls yesterday in an election overshadowed by national unity, the single issue which threatens to undermine the next government.

While polls were predicting victory for the Liberal Party of Jean Chretien, the Canadian Prime Minister, the primary concern for the voters was the fight for second place between the divisive forces of the regions.

Mr Chretien, who had called the election a year early to secure a further mandate for his management of the economy, saw the campaign deteriorate into mud-slinging over whether the mainly French-speaking Quebec would stay in the federation.

The question of independence for Quebec was not even on the ballot but the result today is expected to leave Canada a fractured and balkanised shadow of its former self.

Mr Chretien was predicted to maintain a slim majority, or possibly even a minority of the 301 seats, while the populist Reform Party in the west seemed set to become the Opposition.

Iraqi arms official to visit Britain

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THREE top Iraqi officials, including a representative from President Saddam Hussein's war machine — at the heart of the arms-to-Iraq scandal — are due to visit Britain to begin talks on granting oil concessions to a British company.

Iraqi opposition groups yesterday denounced the visit, and urged all governments to stick by the sanctions agreement and not negotiate with Saddam.

The three men include Dr Takriti, one of the top officials of the oil ministry. Visas for the group — the most senior to visit Britain since the Gulf War — were granted by the British Embassy in Amman. They are understood to be seeking

to offer sole concessions to Perenco for the development of the Nassiriya oil field in southern Iraq. The company had no one available to comment yesterday.

The delegation includes representatives from the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Industry and the Military Industrialisation Organisation (MIO). The Iraqi National Congress, representing Iraqi opposition groups in Britain, said yesterday it was "particularly ominous" that officials from the MIO — the agency that developed the Iraqi arms industry — should be involved.

In December the United Nations allowed Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil for food, medicine and humanitarian needs, but foreign companies were still banned from direct investment in Iraq's

oil industry. When Security Council resolution 986 was passed, Western companies scrambled to secure future contracts at the lucrative rates being offered by Iraq, and the Department of Trade and Industry lifted a ban on negotiations for post-sanctions contracts.

The arrival of the top Iraqis is embarrassing to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, who insisted when Labour came to office that the Government would take a firmer line on human rights.

□ New York: Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, yesterday recommended a six-month extension of the \$2 billion "oil-for-food" deal when it expires on June 7 (James Bone writes). The Security Council is expected to approve the arrangement.

Wartime role model dies

Clarksville, Indiana: Rose Will Monroe, right, whose high-profile role as "Rosie the Riveter" in promotional films and on posters pushed women to take jobs during the Second World War, has died aged 77.

Ms Monroe, who died Saturday, was working as a riveter building military airplanes in Ypsilanti, Michigan, when she was asked to star in a promotional film about the war effort. The role became synonymous with thousands of women who took defence industry jobs. (AP)



Russian soldier kills ten peacekeepers

Moscow: A sergeant shot dead ten fellow soldiers serving in a peacekeeping battalion, the second such army incident in less than three days, the Russian military said yesterday (Richard Beeston writes). Among the dead was the commanding officer of the platoon.

The unit, based in the disputed region of Abkhazia, was resting when Sergeant Artur Vaganov, 20, opened fire. Vaganov later shot himself. If the attack had been an

isolated incident, the authorities could have blamed it on the mental state of one individual. But the shooting was the latest in a series.

At the weekend, authorities in Siberia said they had arrested Yevgeni Gorbunov, 20, a conscript accused of killing five fellow soldiers in a shooting at his barracks near Chita on Friday. Last year, military prosecutors investigating 2,117 deaths in the armed forces concluded that about half were murders.

Church is guilty of race bias

New York: The United Methodist Church has been ordered to pay \$180,000 (£110,000) in damages for racial discrimination against a white minister after it failed to interview him for a "blacks-only" job (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

An all-black jury in Baltimore, the most black city on America's East Coast, found for John Shirkey, 60, who sued the church in 1993. Mr Shirkey, who has spent most of his pastoral career working in the impoverished black areas of Baltimore and Washington, applied for the post of community organiser, but was told that the job was reserved for blacks and "indigenous people". Whites, he was told, need not apply. The church is to appeal.

ANC challenged

Johannesburg: South African trade union leaders claimed that more than two million workers joined their nationwide strike against new labour laws (Inigo Gilmore writes). The success of the protest, including a march here, underscored the widening rift between Labour and its allies in the African National Congress Government by threatening rolling mass action to highlight grievances.

Failed dream

New York: The American Dream of Elhajo Malik Dieye, 30, a penniless Senegalese immigrant, ended abruptly when he jumped from the Statue of Liberty in front of tourists (James Bone writes). Officials said it was the first suicide in memory at the statue that promises to welcome "your poor huddled masses" to American shores.

Senna tyres 'low'

Rome: Damon Hill, the world motor racing champion, said he did not believe the Williams team was responsible for the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in 1994 (Richard Owen writes). Senna made two unusual "corrections" before the crash on the Tamborello bend, possibly due to a fall in tyre pressure, he told the manslaughter trial in Imola.

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CHANGING TIME

Netanyahu attacks media over wife's row with minister

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU, the Israeli Prime Minister, fumed at the media yesterday as a fresh report emerged of his third wife Sara's domineering behaviour.

The latest row, after her much-publicised disputes last year with their nannies, surfaced as a new book reported an alleged telephone conversation last year between Mrs Netanyahu and Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister who is the only woman in the right-wing Cabinet.

According to excerpts from the book, *Netanyahu - the Road to Power*, by local journalists Ben Caspit and Ilan Kfir, Mrs Netanyahu refused Ms Livnat's request to speak to "Bibi", the nickname by which the Prime Minister is popularly known, when she phoned her home.

The authors claim that Mrs Netanyahu, a former air hostess, suspected her husband of having an affair with Ms Livnat. Before their conversation degenerated into a shouting match, the call allegedly went as follows.

Livnat: "Good evening, can I speak to Bibi?"

Mrs Netanyahu: "Bibi's here, but he won't speak to you."

Livnat: "Excuse me?"

Mrs Netanyahu: "It's Friday night. Please do not call here at this time. Bibi is with

the children. You call here all the time and it is very disturbing."

Livnat: "That's not true. I almost never call at this time, and, in any case, Bibi asked me to call."

Mrs Netanyahu: "I have already told Yvet Lieberman [Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office] to tell you not to phone here any more. I can't understand why you are being stubborn."

Livnat: "Tell me what this behaviour of yours is all about. You are talking about nonsense, imaginary things. You disturb our work, and I am asking you to apologise and let me speak to Bibi."

Mrs Netanyahu: "That's out of the question."

Livnat: "You're really crazy."



Livnat had shouting match with First Lady

Now I believe everything I have heard about you."

The book also alleges that, during last year's election, Mr Netanyahu's aides tried to conceal from his wife that he had decided to appoint Ms Livnat to the Cabinet, and had disseminated two lists of ministers, one true and one fabricated. Asked about it, Shai Bazak, the Prime Minister's spokesman, said: "I do not want to respond to gossip."

Yesterday, Mr Netanyahu was asked by Israel army radio for his reaction to the latest unflattering reports about his wife. "If you ask me if I am angry, very much so. If you ask me if I am steaming, I am steaming. It has to stop now," he declared.

Asked if his wife interfered in his political life, Mr Netanyahu, 47, said: "Not at all. They took a minor event and blew it out of all proportion."

Israeli journalists maintain it is fair to comment on Mrs Netanyahu's actions because it was the Prime Minister who put her in the spotlight before and after his victory. Embracing the wife he publicly admitted cheating on, Mr Netanyahu sought to show he had put his own house in order.

Mrs Netanyahu is also a target for criticism because she has broken with tradition and accompanies her husband on most of his foreign trips.



Binyamin and Sara Netanyahu celebrate Likud's election victory. It was he who put her in the spotlight

Israel to act over land agent killings

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ISRAEL yesterday accused the Palestinian Authority of involvement in the recent killings of three Palestinians who sold land to Jews, and warned that "operational steps" had been taken to combat any further attacks.

Three Arab land dealers have been killed since the Palestinian Authority announced the death penalty for the sale of land to Jews. A fourth has disappeared and is presumed murdered.

"Senior officials of the Palestinian

Authority openly encouraged these murders," Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, claimed yesterday as he called an emergency meeting of his security chiefs. "This is simply standing the peace process on its head."

In a communiqué put out after the emergency meeting, the Israeli Government said that it would issue warrants for those suspected of involvement in the killings and take additional steps to prevent further "attempts at kidnapping and murder".

The Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz* revealed

that Israel's defence establishment had obtained a secret "hit list" of 16 Palestinian land dealers whom the Palestinian authorities had ordered killed. The authenticity of the list was reinforced because it contained the names of three of those already murdered since the new order against selling land to Jews was made.

□ Berlin: The Berlin Opera yesterday sacked one of its double-bass players after he signed a Tel Aviv hotel bill in the name of Adolf Hitler "as a joke" while on a tour of Israel. (Reuters)

£3bn rail link gives Danes a short cut

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

DENMARK'S 150-year-old dream of a fixed link between its east and west has become reality. Queen Margrethe has inaugurated the "Great Belt" rail tunnel and bridge connecting the eastern island of Zealand, on which Copenhagen stands, and the central island of Funen.

The moves, in effect, join the Danish capital to the European mainland as road and rail bridges have long run from Funen to the Jutland peninsula. The five million Danish population is divided almost 50-50 by the 11-mile-wide Great Belt.

Denmark's most ambitious public works engineering scheme, the link has cost almost £3 billion. Work began in 1988 but completion was delayed for three years by technical problems, accidents and a legal dispute over tendering.

The construction ends 114 years of train ferries, and cuts a crossing time of more than an hour to seven minutes.

The new link, operated by the state-owned DSB railway, consists of two five-mile tunnel tubes from Zealand to the Isef of Sprogø, where trains surface to join a six-mile combined rail and road bridge spanning the western section.

The project will be completed next June when a suspension bridge now being built between Sprogø and Zealand is ready for road traffic.

Pharaohs' museum hopes to shelter reigning cats and dogs

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

EUROPEAN and American pet food companies are to be approached on financing a new room dedicated to mummified pets and other animals from the time of the Pharaohs in the Cairo Museum.

"Pets were very common," said Salima Ikram, the Egyptologist leading the drive to open the room to house 150 mummified cats, crocodiles,

dogs, fish, snakes and baboons. The animals were mostly offerings to the gods.

The cash-strapped museum, home to the treasures of Tutankhamun, has accepted the idea but has ruled that Ms Ikram will have to raise the £125,000 cost from private donations. She has lectured in Egypt and America in her attempt to find funds.

Tomb-carvings show how the ancient Egyptians immu-

ortalised not only sacred animals, but also pets. In one, Prince Tutankhamun's cat Mit sits before a table piled high with loaves, a duck and a few beef ribs.

In another, the nobleman Ptahmose holds the wooden sceptres of office while a monkey tethers beneath his chair kicks up a foot in delight and plucks a grape from a bunch it is holding.

Ms Ikram, whose enthusiasm is expected to attract worldwide attention and whose project could help to boost tourism at a time when Islamic terrorism in Cairo is on the wane, said that ancient Egypt was "an economically stable society that could afford to have pets".

Noblemen raised cats, monkeys and dogs, while Pharaohs kept hunting dogs and lions, with which they are sometimes pictured in hunting scenes. "We do not have cuddly Pharaohs," Ms Ikram added. "We have Pharaohs smiling and hunting."



A tomb painting depicting hunting on the marshes

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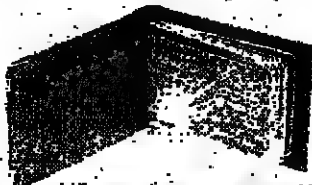
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GERMANY

Anatole Kaletsky, page 18
Leading article, page 19

By ROGER BATES

A Socialist International session in Sweden on Thursday — a day before Tony Blair makes his first prime ministerial visit to Bonn — will try to draw some general principles. The first is plainly that Socialist parties have to adapt to the market, abandon class rhetoric and seek out the centre ground.

KOHL'S RIVALS

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

[Lionel] Jospin has given strong signals that he wants Italy to be able to join the single currency, and the German row over revaluing gold reserves shows that we all have trouble meeting the Maastricht EMU criteria," one Italian official said. La Repubblica noted that, while the Paris-Bonn dialogue would now become more difficult,

Frattini

Rome looked to Britain's Government for support, and was stung when Mr Cook appeared to ignore Italian aspirations, remarking that Britain, France and Germany were Europe's "Big Three". The two discussed this "misunderstanding" at the Noordwijk summit last month.

President Chirac, top, now has the headache of "cohabitation" after the Socialist win, which forced the resignation of Alain Juppé, above, his Prime Minister

EU ponders effect on treaty talks


Luxembourg: Anxiety and some optimism coloured the reaction of European governments yesterday as they all reacted to the advent of a full-blown Socialist Administration in France two weeks before the negotiation of a revised Maastricht treaty (Charles Brenner writes).

At a Luxembourg session of European Union foreign min-

distaste for the Gaullists' Maastricht-inspired austerity drive. However, M Jospin's party, with its centralising doctrines, is deemed old-fashioned by many of its European Socialist partners. The Socialist branch of the Dutch and Italian coalitions, for example, have more in common with new Labour than the French party.

Signor Dini said yesterday that, while it was desirable to stick to the timetable, he had repeatedly argued that a year's delay "would help everybody. Events in France and Germany have proved me right," he said. But *La Stampa* said German and French difficulties should not be used to delay social spending cuts in Italy.

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Primeval Labour swept into power by red tide of antediluvian politics

The hammer and sickle, now unavailable further east, was flying over the Boulevard Saint-Germain early yesterday and red flags marched to the banging of dubbin lids.

The *Internationale* and the words *rouge du sang de l'avant* (the red blood of the workers) floated in snatches from the ecstatic crowd. Why, comrades, you could almost have been back in the roaring revolutionary Twenties, or perhaps on the barriers in 1968. But 1997? Most unlikely.



France is a modern country except for its primordial political parties, Kate Muir writes from Paris

Yet here we were, interlopers from the land of new Labour, watching the revival of Primeval Labour, the French Socialist Party and its Communist Party allies. Until this moment when the pink tide swept across the

election pie charts, most observers considered France a modern country where you could buy small electronic gadgets, wine futures and Renault Twingos. But although it is socially and culturally modern, politically,

it is antediluvian. Those of us who live here already know this. Like the Parisians, we celebrated as offers of milk and honey replaced the austerity measures promised by the Right. We hummed along to the Communist youth anthem, *La jeune garde*, as we arrived at work. We toasted the new or, more like, *ancien* regime. As foreigners, we can luxuriate for a few years, cradled by one of the most lavish welfare states in the world, and then leave long before the crash.

The Socialists will protect all that we hold dear, from the superb state education system, to a health service without waiting lists, and public transport symbolised by the marvellous TGV.

But they will also protect all that we hold dearer: excessive thalassotherapy (warm seawater spas), shiatsu massage and haute cuisine free on the NHS.

Small trains will still run on single gauge tracks

through exquisite countryside, carrying one passenger every six months. More workers will win their demands to retire at 50 on a full pension, as shortening the working week is another Primeval Labour promise. Passengers will continue to avoid booking on Air France, which will remain in the (financial) red and strike regularly.

How the Socialists will finance their promises is most unclear. An election slogan such as, "It's the economy, stupid", would be

anathema here. It must be said that Lionel Jospin, the new Prime Minister, does not inspire the adjective *charismatique*.

On election night, the television stations desperately tried to make biographical films. These were endless shots of people politely clapping as M Jospin rose, Major-like in a grey suit and grey hair, to give dreary speeches. The most exciting clip of his life was when he dithered over a

white or an organic brown sawdusty loaf at the local greenmarket and plumped for the politically correct option.

Clearly a spin doctor, or perhaps his wife, told him to change his thick brown-framed spectacles for see-through frames, a move which has rendered him almost invisible.

Even fervent Socialist supporters are short on fascinating Jospin moments: "Er," said one hopefully, "he was a boy scout."

Jospin takes reins with hand tied behind back

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

POLL TALLY

PRESIDENT CHIRAC yesterday named Lionel Jospin, the Socialist Party leader, as France's new Prime Minister after the crushing victory of the Left in Sunday's parliamentary elections.

Final results gave the combined parties of the Left 319 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, but the Socialists and their non-Communist allies fell short of winning an absolute majority, leaving the Communist Party — with 38 seats — holding the balance of power.

Bowing to an election result that has left him critically weakened, M Chirac accepted the resignation of the centre-right Prime Minister, Alain Juppé. M Jospin was summoned to the Elysée Palace two hours later and asked to form a new government. The formal handover of power takes place this morning. M Jospin said yesterday that he would assemble his ministerial team in the next few days. Jacques Delors, the Socialist former President of the European Commission, indicated he would act as a senior adviser.

M Jospin said that his brief meeting with M Chirac had been "excellent", but signs were immediately apparent that the "cohabitation" between the humiliated conservative President and the Socialist-led Government is likely to be testy.

The Communist Party lost no time in flexing its newfound muscle, declaring it was

prepared to join a left-wing administration in principle but was awaiting firm policy commitments from M Jospin.

The Communists, who have been campaigning vigorously against the single currency, have called for swift action on pay, job-creation schemes and an immediate reduction in the working week. "We are working to get certain undertakings from the Socialists," Robert Hue, the party leader, said.

M Chirac's failed election gamble and the difficulties being experienced by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, have led some French observers to predict a radical alteration in Europe's power configuration. "Has their time passed?" *Le Monde* newspaper wondered yesterday. "Time will tell whether a Blair-Jospin partnership is taking the place, in Europe, of the Kohl-Chirac partnership."

Not only has the balance of power within France, and perhaps Europe, been radically altered by the Left's crushing

victory, which cut the Centre Right's huge former majority by almost half, but the character of the French parliament has been transformed as well. The Socialist triumph has doubled the number of women MPs — to 62. Just 5 per cent of seats in the last parliament were held by women, the lowest representation in Europe. M Jospin has pledged to appoint women to senior ministerial posts.

As the rest of Europe pondered the fate of economic and monetary union in the wake of the elections, the Socialists repeated their conditions for joining a single currency — including no further austerity measures and the participation of Spain and Italy from the outset.

Seven of the outgoing centre-right Cabinet lost their seats in Sunday night's massacre, including Jacques Toubon, the former Justice Minister, whose fall might best be compared to that of Michael Portillo in Britain.

A strong sense of déjà vu from the British election was also apparent yesterday as

senior figures within the devastated centre-right coalition began jockeying for leadership and blaming each other for the disaster.

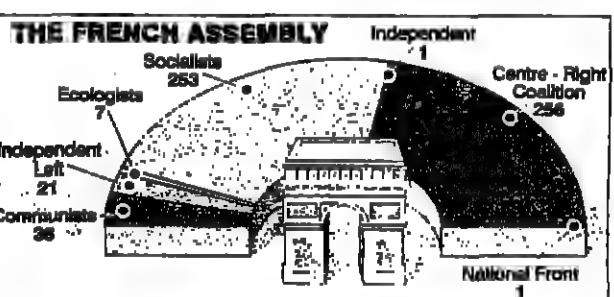
Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former President, stating the obvious forcefully, said the President's decision to call an election had been "imprudent". Edouard Balladur, M Chirac's erstwhile presidential rival, called for a complete review of the Centre Right's political organisation.

Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist Eurosceptic who emerged as the last-ditch figure-head for the Centre Right, vowed to fight "for a return to power with all those who share the same conception of France".

In perhaps the most worrying post-election development for the beaten coalition, Bruno Mégret, the deputy leader of the National Front, called for an alliance between his extreme-right party and whatever emerged from what he called the "smouldering ruins" of the Centre Right.

The Front won nearly 15 per cent of the first-round vote and some on the right wing of the shattered coalition may be tempted to take up M Mégret's suggestion, so splitting the Centre Right.

The xenophobic party gained just one seat in parliament, its first since 1988, but it played a crucial spoiling role in the election's outcome by running candidates in the second round in 76 constituencies, 47 of which were won by the Left.



Marriage of inconvenience for Socialists

Paris: Lionel Jospin needs the skills of an experienced politician in the coming months as he plunges into "cohabitation" with not just one partner but several, all making different demands on his powers and wallet (Ben Macintyre writes).

M Jospin must share power across the political spectrum: on his right he will be trying to work with a conservative President, Jacques Chirac, who will do everything he can to exert his authority

and prove he is not a lame duck; on his left are the Greens and, more importantly, the Communists, holding the balance of power and already setting out the terms of their pre-nuptial contract with the Socialist-led Government.

Despite the shattering failure of his election gamble, the President still wields enormous powers and is expected to focus on foreign policy. M Jospin's Government will broadly steer domestic

and economic policy. But the potential for conflict is enormous. M Jospin will recommend ministers, but M Chirac can reject them and he can make his Prime Minister's life still harder by slowing down legislation. In extremis, the President can demand a referendum on stalled policies and, if the entire system goes into paralysis, M Chirac can invoke the constitution and call another election after a year.

Left-wing allies head for early ideological clash

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

COMMUNISTS

LIONEL JOSPIN is likely to find himself locked in a power struggle with Robert Hue, the Communist leader, as he attempts to establish the policy of his Socialist-led Cabinet.

M Jospin cannot govern without Communist support but will want to distance himself from M Hue's hard-left economic policies. The Socialist leader moved away from the Communists during the election campaign as he softened his programme to appeal to the Centre. He modified policy in the following areas:

□ M Jospin said he would only join the single currency if Italy and Spain participated as well; if a European "economic government" was created; and if the Maastricht criteria were "interpreted" rather than respected. Now he says these are only the starting points for a discussion on economic and monetary

union, and insists he will replace the franc by the euro. □ M Jospin promised the swift creation of 700,000 jobs, half in the public sector. Today, he says this will be achieved progressively.

□ A commitment to raise salaries and reduce the working week from 39 to 35 hours has been transformed into a proposal to talk about these measures at a "national employment conference". □ M Jospin says he will bring down the VAT rate of 20.6 per cent on some essentials, maintain income tax at current levels and raise the wealth tax. He says he will not increase payroll taxes or public spending. But M Jospin will also order the sort of "audit" on public finances that previous governments have used to escape from manifesto commitments.

□ The Socialists have promised to halt France's privatisation programme. Privately, they hint that some sell-offs may go ahead.

M Hue, whose deputies enjoy a pivotal role in the National Assembly, will press the Socialists to implement radical policies. The Communists gave a taste of a power-struggle ahead yesterday when they said they would only accept Cabinet posts if M Jospin increased the minimum wage, reduced taxes for the low paid and raised the wealth tax.

M Hue, opposed to Maastricht, will also put pressure on the Government to turn its back on austerity necessary for EMU.



Hue: will press for a radical programme

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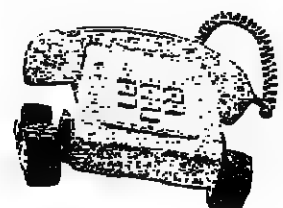
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Laid low by an energy crisis

A report published last week claimed that one in five schoolchildren suffers from chronic fatigue syndrome, the debilitating illness formerly known as ME. For 18 desperate months, **Candida Scott-Knight** was told she had this incurable condition. Then, six months ago, she learnt that she had something quite different, an illness that could be effectively controlled with the right treatment

In January 1995 I was posted to New York to work for the BBC. A few days after my arrival I still couldn't seem to shake off my jet lag and I was suffering from dizzy spells. I visited the BBC's doctor who found nothing wrong with me and sent me home. A week later I went again and this time I was diagnosed with labyrinthitis, an infection of the inner ear. I was put on a course of steroids and told that two days later I would be better. The days came and went but I still had sore throats, migraines, aching limbs and flu-like symptoms. Again I went to see a doctor, who informed me that I had a bad case of the flu.

I knew this wasn't just flu. I'd been ill for nearly three weeks. I decided it was time to get specialist help. I went to see an ophthalmologist, an ear, nose and throat specialist and a neurologist. I went for a CAT scan — a scary experience for which the nurse gave me two shots of Valium to calm me down. After the scan the doctors let me walk out onto the streets of New York, where I finished down the pavement for ten minutes, before I realised I was walking in the wrong direction.

I was scared, I had no idea what was wrong with me. I was frightened by doctors into thinking that I might have multiple sclerosis, a brain tumour or a life-threatening disease. A girlfriend in London suggested that I might have "chronic fatigue syndrome" (CFS) and sent me some cuttings. I read them with dread, realising that I had the same symptoms, and decided that this was what I had. I went to see a CFS specialist who agreed and suggested a mix of daily jabs. At this point, I decided it was time to go home. Before I left I telephoned an American help group. The founder, a sufferer of 18 years, told me that I would probably never get better.

With this helpful advice, I flew back to England, went immediately to see my local

GP and waited for him to tell me that I didn't have chronic fatigue. The first advice he gave was: "Go to bed for six months." I laughed and then cried before replying that I would seek help from a homoeopath, or a Chinese doctor, to which he quipped: "Don't do that, they'll poison you."

With that I turned to alternative therapy. I tried everything. Chinese doctors, body-centered therapists, massage, homoeopaths, reflexologists, dairy-free diets, wheat-free diets — one doctor thought I had a candida infection. I tried spiritual healers, bio-energy healers, experts in shiatsu and acupuncture. I went to see a professor at one of the top London hospitals. I even went to see a psychiatrist, to shut up the people who were convinced that my illness was psychosomatic.

Astonishingly, every one of them assured me that they could get me better — and every one of them failed. I gave up red meat, caffeine, sugar, alcohol, cigarettes and all processed food. I replaced PG Tips with twig tea. I ate organic fruit

and vegetables, and switched from white pasta to brown. I even tried a daily cocktail of egg whites, wheatgerm and aloe vera, Madonna's elixir of life. I was healthier than most of my friends — except I was ill.

Six months turned into a year, and a year into 18 months. I cried most days, not knowing if I would ever get back to my vibrant, noisy, former self. Some days I failed to get up. One day I couldn't put on my dressing gown, it felt too heavy. My boyfriend often had to carry me up the stairs. When I slowly walked to the shops I looked like an old lady, and would have to rest halfway. I had no energy. My worst dread became watching the seasons change on the tree outside my sitting room window. From blossom to green leaves to orange to no leaves to snow to sun to blossom again.



Candida Scott-Knight lost 18 months of normal life until yet another doctor finally tracked down the cause of her acute lethargy to a malfunction of the thyroid gland

My family were incredibly supportive, as was my boyfriend. Some friends were not so understanding. Some even suggested that I was "just lazy". I hated myself. I felt like a burden. All that I could do was wait, or join a help group. It seems that there is nothing on offer for people with this illness. A friend put me in touch with a friend who'd had CFS for four years and hadn't been able to get out of bed for six months.

After a while, I became depressed and frustrated. I had no idea when I might become well again. I was 24, in my youth, wasting years and behaving like a 90-year-old. I couldn't even read a broadsheet newspaper. I resorted to looking at the pictures in *The Sun*. I believe I can now understand why people commit suicide. To be depressed is

truly to be without hope. Then, in September last year, 30 doctors and alternative therapists later, I went to see a private doctor recommended to me by a friend. Dr David O'Connell took a blood test, examined me and looked at my mountain of paperwork. He told me in his charming Irish accent that I would be better by Easter 1998. I didn't believe him, but six months later, I do.

I have a disease called hypothyroidism. I don't produce enough thyroxine, a hormone that is normally produced by the thyroid gland. It takes about six months for thyroxine to get into your system properly and a bit of trial and error to find the correct dose. In the past two weeks, I have begun to feel much more like my old self. As Sir Richard Bayliss, a consultant endocrinologist who specialises in problems of the thyroid gland, states: "This is not a disease that gets better between bedtime and dinner."

Dr O'Connell looked for three specific physical signs to confirm that I had hypothyroidism, which I will have for the rest of my life. These are: cold, sweaty extremities, puffiness around the eyes and an abnormality in ankle reflexes. Dr O'Connell says that "a large number of people who have been diagnosed with CFS in fact have hypothyroidism", adding that he has treated many patients "who have had years of misery thinking they have had chronic fatigue, when in fact they have had this condition".

My thyroxine levels were tested several times before my first appointment with my new doctor, but, each time the results showed that my levels of the hormone were normal.

The results of the blood tests taken by Dr O'Connell showed that levels of another hormone, thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH), were elevated, proving that I had undoubted hypothyroidism, even though my thyroxine had been within the normal range.

One of the jobs of the thyroid gland is to control the body's metabolic rate. If you

have a low metabolic rate you put on weight and your body slows down, which is why you feel tired. Nobody really knows why the thyroid gland should suddenly stop functioning properly. One theory is that the antibodies get confused and start to attack the gland — known as Hashimoto's thyroiditis. The other is that it simply wears out, which is why older women are prone to this condition.

Thyroxine is rich in iodine, a mineral essential for health. In the past, it was often found that people who lived far from the sea (a good source of iodine) and ate locally produced food suffered from iodine deficiency, and hence, from hypothyroidism. It is a condition that presents many different symptoms, which means it is hard to distinguish

it from other illnesses. The migraines, lethargy, lack of concentration, intolerance to bright lights and cold, sleepless nights, aching muscles, fainting spells, a flu-like feeling behind the eyes, cold clammy hands and feet, and weight gain are all very similar to the symptoms of CFS.

I seems that even if you have the best doctors, thyroid problems are infamously difficult to diagnose. Boris Yeltsin's heart disease may not be, as is sometimes suggested, the result of too much vodka, but of having been deprived for many years of an adequately functioning thyroid gland. I am not suggesting that everybody who has chronic fatigue has hypothyroidism. But, as I see it, CFS is a huge melting pot for many different

illnesses that cannot yet be explained. It is a convenient label for doctors who find it hard to understand why people suddenly get ill for no obvious reason.

My advice to anybody who is unfortunate enough to have chronic fatigue diagnosed is to treat it with scepticism, keep checking and try every possible route.

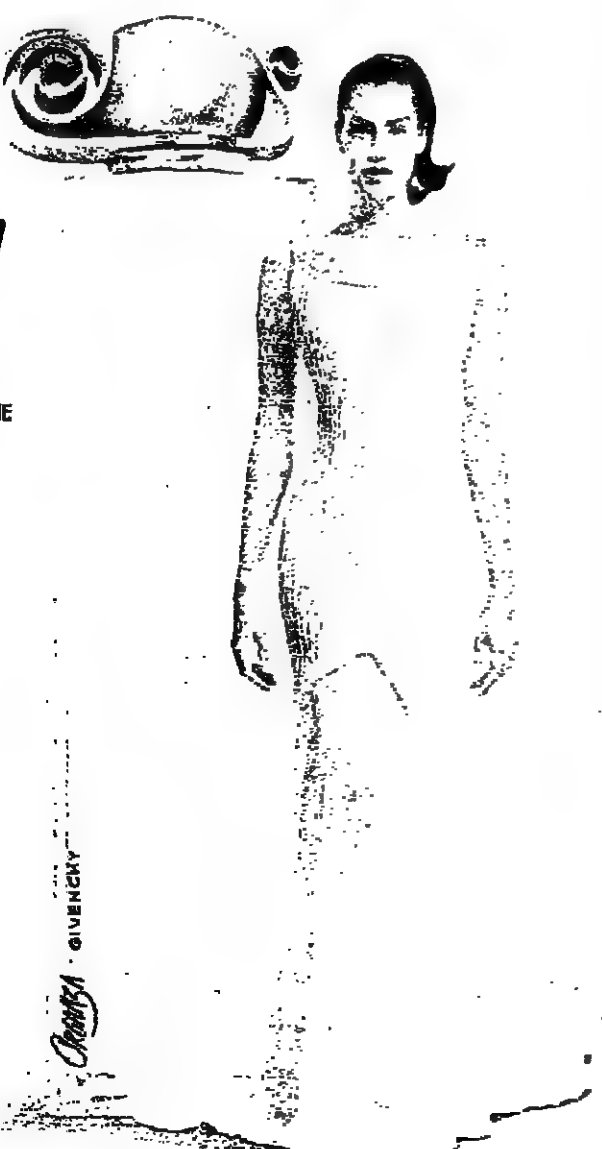
When I was really ill, I didn't realise quite how ill I was. It is only now that I look

back on the past two years and four months, that I see how unwell I was. I can't mind that I was robbed of this time. I can only look forward and enjoy life again. Three months ago I wouldn't have had the energy to write this article. Now, I'm about to start full-time work again and I am planning to do a film course in New York at the end of the year. I can only hope that my particular experience will offer hope to others. In short, don't give up.

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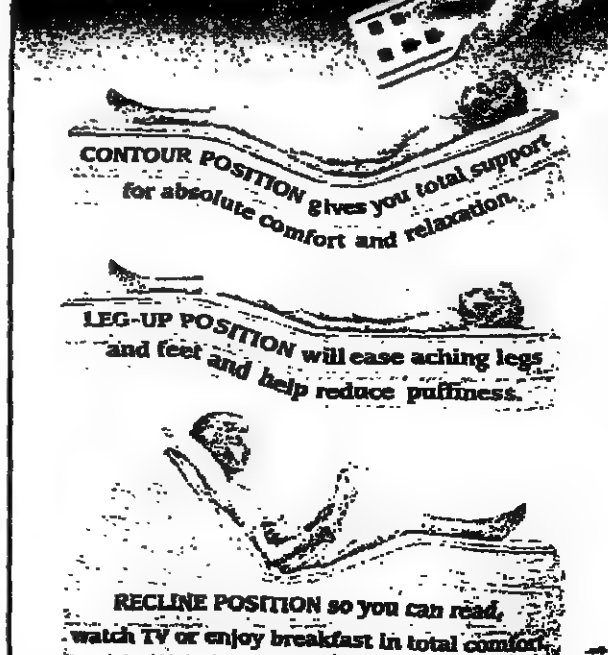
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Tony Goring and Ian Thomas in their London pub, the Townhouse, SE1. They dreamt of a new life as rural landlords but found a distinctly mixed welcome in the Cotswolds

Dream that turned bitter

Tony Goring, 37, and Ian Thomas, 40, had been BA stewards for 13 and ten years respectively when they decided to pursue their dream of running a pub in the Cotswolds. Tony tells their story.

There was no specific thing that made us decide to move to the country, but when we looked around us, BA seemed to be full of people with great ideas who were still stuck there pushing trolleys. We had both reached an age where, if we didn't do something, we might be stewards at 60.

I had also grown tired of all the American jargon that seemed to be taking over. We would go into the office and on training courses, and people would be talking about "putting things on back burners" and similar nonsense. I thought, "Does no one here speak English any more?"

Having decided to do our own thing, we also wanted to get out of London with all its traffic and hubbub. "Wouldn't it be nice..." we thought. We had an old English sheepdog and we imagined taking it out for walks in the countryside.

Having looked at various pubs, we heard about The Corner Cupboard Inn in a village called Winchcombe. It seemed perfect: a 500-year-old building with original fireplaces, in a beautiful village on the outskirts of Cheltenham in

Running a country pub is a popular downshifting fantasy, but the reality can prove far from idyllic. Grace Bradberry reports



The Corner Cupboard Inn, Winchcombe, proved far from the tourist trail. Putting on live music led to complaints

Gloucestershire. It was nice — it really was — and we thought it would be a tourist trap.

We soon found that not many tourists came through at all. That meant we definitely had a problem. If we had a fortune in the bank account, we could have ignored the takings and kept the place as it was, not making much money. But we had to think about the practicalities, which meant coming up with events that would draw people into the pub.

There was a council estate in the village and its residents had very little to do in the evenings. We hired a singer for one night a week and put

on karaoke nights and parties. They loved it. We were invited to their weddings, we knew them all.

We discovered very quickly, though, that there was another group of people who wanted the pub and the village kept the way it was — damned quiet. It was the sort of place where, if you played the car radio, you would hear it all over the village. A lot of people had bought places in Winchcombe so they could come down for

'Soon the complaints started. We found notes under the door'

laughter. We would have put in double-glazing but it was a Grade II listed building, so we couldn't.

The complaints soon started. We would find notes

under the door in the morning, people would come in, or the regulars would tell us that so-and-so had been very angry.

At first I thought "why on earth live near a pub if you don't like noise?" I even said to one or two people that I offered my apologies, but that they must accept that although the pub had been quiet before, now it was busy, and I could hardly ask people to talk more softly. Their response was simply to say: "I expect your pub to be quiet." The whingeing was constant.

The police were called a couple of times, arriving once when we had a steel band playing in the garden. It was

wonderful, with all the children limbo-dancing and everyone else dancing, too. The police asked "Has the music been any louder than this?" We said it hadn't — you can't turn up the volume of a steel drum. They were very understanding and said they couldn't understand what the fuss was about.

On New Year's Eve the police arrived when we were sitting around in our dressing gowns, picking up the remnants of sandwiches from the floor. They were gobsmacked — they had been told we were partying all night.

We lasted for 13 months before deciding we would have to move. I was never under the impression that it would be a bed of roses, but we thought that with work we would be able to turn the place around. We succeeded — but there came a point where we had taken the business as far as it could go, and there was no solution to the noise problem.

The company that owned the pub offered others in the area, but we looked around and found one in The Borough, south London. It was in a terrible state with hardly any customers but the brewery was going to refurbish it, so we knew it had potential. We also knew we could make it lively without fear of complaints from local people.

At our leaving party, a lot of the Winchcombe regulars were in tears. They knew why we were going and some of them were very angry about it. They said it was the first time the pub had been full of life. But we had just had enough of battling with people who wanted a quiet life.

● The second part of The Good Life is on Channel 4 at 9pm on Monday, June 9.

When sex is overexposed



Magnus Linklater explains why the sexual revolution leaves him a little hot under the collar

I HAVE always lagged a step or two behind the sexual revolution. Recently, however, the gap seems to have widened. I've dropped so far behind that I expect to be lapped any moment now by some sexual athlete coming round for the second time.

It was brought home to me when I booked two tickets to hear Naomi Wolf talking about her new book, *Promiscuities*. It would, I thought, be a stimulating, even an educational, experience. My daughter and I went along together, both of us, I thought, adult, responsible human beings, capable of taking on grown-up subjects such as sexual orientation, the human body and erogenous zones. Within a few minutes, however, I was beginning to wonder whether either of us was grown-up enough.

The programme notes carried the telltale phrase "for adult audiences" — always a giveaway — and, apart from me, there were only four men in the audience. The thought dawned that this might not be suitable material for normal buttoned-up, middle-class males.

Ms Wolf's theme was women and sexual desire. Her main point was that if women are to lead healthier, better-adjusted emotional lives, they need greater frankness when it comes to discussing their bodies, their intimate experiences and the physiology of the male sex. This she proceeded to do in some detail, beginning with a graphic account of the conversations she and her girlfriends used to have about men: more specifically, she recalled their teenage discussions about aspects of the male anatomy and its various functions, as well as a kind of beginner's guide to physical parts that most public talks rarely reach. She then went on to lament the ignorance of men when it comes to certain aspects of female biology. Specifically, she talked at some length about the clitoris.

It was all remarkably relaxed, engaging and full of humour, though I sensed that some of the laughter was a little too hearty. But my reaction was one of deep embarrassment. I felt a ridiculous blush rising until my face had become a bright shade of mulberry: the sweat stood out on my forehead, and my shirt collar, which that morning had seemed to fit quite well, was uncomfortably tight. It was a bedroom discussion made public, and while I could have sauntered out, it meant pushing past a row of women, who would doubtless have muttered: "I wonder what his problem is?" Part of my discomfort may have been

caused by listening to the company of my daughter; but she, too, found the whole affair disconcerting, if not disturbing.

The reason, I think, was that Ms Wolf assumed not just understanding, but complicity on the part of her audience. All women, she implied, had been through similar experiences: it was only society's repressive attitudes that had prevented them from acquiring a healthy openness about their sexual inclinations. If we could talk about it freely and honestly, we would all be better adjusted, more mature and, above all, good in bed.

Someone like myself, whose sexual education was mainly acquired in the fevered surroundings of a public school changing room, is hardly the best person to challenge Ms Wolf's view. But I think her argument is wrong, if not damaging. It presumes that all women share a common attitude to sex, and that they develop in similar ways. It presumes that they would relish the opportunity to talk more openly about their private lives but that they are held back only by a hidebound society. It presumes that the complexities of human nature can be simply resolved. It presumes too much. Sexual maturity comes in a wide variety of ways, at different ages and with different effects.

For some people, the progression may be as easy and as natural as Ms Wolf would like it to be. For them, the openness she advocates is already instinctive. They would join in her relaxed badinage with relish. For others, growing up is more complex. The genetic pattern they have been handed, the pressures of family, the social environment in which they make that uneasy progress from childhood to adolescence, all these may create personal barriers that even their friends can only guess at. The open exchange of sexual secrets too early may be not only painful, but threatening. The assumption that everyone else is sexually liberated and that only they are misfits, imprisoned by inhibitions, may increase their sense of inadequacy. They may need help — but not that kind.

There is nothing wrong in arriving late at sexual adulthood. There is nothing wrong in preferring reticence to exposure, or working out one's own private route to maturity. But there is everything wrong with assuming that we are all ready to join in a sexual free-for-all and that we would all be the better for it.



Frank: Naomi Wolf

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Euro-rascals pay the price of mendacity

Anatole Kaletsky asks: will Kohl's day of reckoning be next?

Democracy is not about electing good governments. It is about getting rid of governments that are incompetent, corrupt or oppressive. That is why Churchill described democracy as the worst political system imaginable, except for all the others. It is why French voters have just elected a left-wing Government with totally incoherent policies and uncharismatic leadership. In an electoral turnaround that exceeded even that achieved by Tony Blair.

The people of France did not suddenly fall in love with the same Socialists whom they crushed to a political slump in the general election four years ago, when the combined forces of the Left were reduced to just 87 out of the 577 seats in the National Assembly.

After the contempt shown by the voters for the Socialists four years ago, and the absence of any Blair-like reconstruction of the Socialist Party in the intervening period, it is tempting to explain the French election result simply as a childish Gallic tantrum. Tempting, but wrong.

What the French did on Sunday was very similar to what British voters did a month before, and what the French did to the Socialists themselves four years ago: they threw out a Government that had proved ineffective, arrogant and dishonest, in favour of an alternative which may or may not prove better, but could hardly be worse. The way political events are now moving in Germany, the next of these democratic revolutions could dethrone the uncrowned Emperor of Europe, Helmut Kohl himself.

The obvious question raised by all this political turmoil is why governments all over Europe have suddenly become so unpopular. One possible answer — favoured by incumbent politicians everywhere — is that the end of the Cold War has made voters impatient of all governments. When there are no deep ideological divisions, and leftist oppositions are unthreatening, governments can be thrown out for seemingly trivial transgressions which would hardly have merited attention in the days when politics was a battle of Big Ideas.

The end of ideology probably does explain some of the new-found volatility in Western politics, but it still begs the question of why governments seem to have become so incompetent, arrogant and dishonest all at the same time.

The most persuasive explanation is Europe itself. The political elites' obsession with monetary union has not merely given voters the impression that their rulers are living in another world, far removed from the everyday concerns of ordinary people — a self-absorbed detachment which, ironically, may have done as much damage to the Euro-sceptical British Tories as to the federalist French and German Right. The EMU project has also encouraged the leaders of Europe to break

their electoral promises, and to preach arrogantly (and falsely) to their voters.

Above all, the EMU process has forced governments to pursue policies detrimental to the interests of their economies, while pretending that these were for the national good. It is not surprising that governments which claim to be pursuing pan-European programmes for economic stability, prosperity and employment are deemed incompetent when their policies produce exactly the opposite results.

In the British context it is worth recalling what people found most incomprehensible and ultimately unforgivable about the economic policies of John Major: the shocking contradiction between the Prime Minister's dire warnings about what would happen if Britain ever broke the monetary bonds with Europe and the benign results of being ejected from the exchange-rate mechanism.

Of course, every government in Europe tells its people that the tough economic decisions being taken in the name of the single currency are for their country's good. But this is exactly their biggest mistake. It is true that France and

All over Europe, there is a search for a new way

Germany could benefit from reforming their pensions and labour markets, from streamlining bureaucracies and privatising state-owned industries. But all this needs to be explained and justified in the German or French national context — and not as the "price" of keeping some ill-starred "rendezvous with Europe" which most of the voters would rather avoid. The German people may have been willing to tolerate some sacrifice to unify their nation, but the Kohl-Mitterrand-Chirac ideal of "unifying Europe" is one for which the voters do not give a tinker's cuss.

To make matters far worse, there is more than rhetoric and psychology in the contradiction between the "price of Europe" demanded by the politicians and the national economic interests their voters perceive. The fact is that the EMU programme, at least as conceived in the Maastricht treaty, has made it infinitely more painful to undertake the reforms in social and economic policies which France, Germany and the rest need.

By forcing European nations to deflate their economies with high taxes and overvalued exchange rates, the Maastricht conditions have undermined hopes that more competitive markets and lower public spending would create prosperity and jobs. On the contrary, the more France and Germany have reformed their labour markets, the more they have found tight money and high taxes destroying jobs.

It is hardly surprising, then, that people all over Europe are looking for new directions. The rational first step in seeking a new direction is to look at the people who were responsible for the old direction — and throw the rascals out.



Keep the Isle Emerald

Irish voters have a rare opportunity to save their fragile rural wilderness

In this dizzying season of general elections, it is Ireland's turn next. The trouble with Irish general elections is that comment on this side of the water invariably turns to the question of how it will affect the peace process to the north of them. But Ireland's leaders will have more domestic matters on their minds: welfare, tax policies, the management of rapid social change and the balance between profit and environment.

Some of those Irish dilemmas should be particularly interesting to Britain, because in many senses Ireland stands now where we stood at the dawn of the 1960s. There is a great expansion, a new confidence, an explosion of building and of consumer spending-power. Dublin and Cork are becoming attractively fashionable places for the young and bold of Europe: inward investment booms. This is not the ancient, picturesque victim land, poor, keeping primitive old Mother Ireland: this is the Celtic Tiger, as they say (though generally, because it is, after all, still Ireland, they say it with a grimace of self-mockery).

Everything is changing, as it did for us decades earlier. Women are flocking out to work, the birthrate falling, religion and traditional morality struggling. The drug problem is growing. Family values are changing, and a gap widening between the generations. Listen to any Irish local radio phone-in and you will eventually hear a tone of scornful bewilderment about modern Irish youth: the voice of a generation that still walked barefoot to school through the fields, said its prayers, ate potato dinners and frankly can't believe how easy young people have it now, and how much they nonetheless complain.

Moreover, the same pressures are growing on the rural far west of Ireland that Cornwall and Devon felt in the decades after the war. Here we have a population newly leisured, besotted with cars and new building, and rather careless about planning — because, what the hell, the money will be handy, the builders need the work, and there is a lot of rocky wilderness out there still. There can be few places where it is so beautiful and wild and yet so easy to achieve planning permission for a repulsive skein of mishapen holiday cottages or a vainglorious private hacienda-style rancho-bungalow on a headland.

Our family has known one patch of

West Cork with a fair degree of intimacy since 1963, and seen it prosper. First there was Ireland's entry into the European Union, and the undreamt-of munificence of the common agricultural policy (farmers' cars got newer, and in the big kitchens the hard old wooden settles were replaced by less picturesque sofas, easier on the back). Then there was rising tourism, although the advent of the Troubles gave that a knock, and still deters the timid, especially Americans. Now we have this new growing and prancing of the Celtic Tiger as city wealth seeps

ans should reverse the trend. By and large, Miss ni Chonail's "Ireland for the Irish only" flag will be hard for anybody with a sense of fairness to rally round.

But one part of her message should be noted by other parties in Ireland, and by all countries which contain a beautiful and fragile rural wilderness. It is not just New Age travellers living on Irish welfare who enrage her, but their opposite: wealthy British and Germans who buy property, push up house prices and obstruct the building of practical, cheap housing for local youth.

Libby Purves

Sounds familiar, does it? It certainly will if you know a Cornish fishing village whose heart is dead because the waterfront fishermen's cottages stand empty nine months of the year, their expensive kitchen fittings and furniture unused, while the actual fishermen have to live on the council estate. It will ring bells if you are a newly married couple in Norfolk drossing with your parents because the cottages your ancestors built are all holiday homes, and retired incomers dominate local planning and refuse to let a housing association build something you can afford. There are Bretons for whom it will all be very familiar, and Spaniards, and Highland Scots. There is nothing new in the problem of economic bullying of rural communities by visitors who love the look of the land but not the people on it. Nor about investors who see coastal regions purely as a tourist facility, not as traditional communities to be protected.

What is new is the intriguing possibility that in confident new Ireland, a policy might actually emerge which prevents West Cork and Kerry, Galway and Connemara from becoming as cluttered, bullied, resentful and socially unbalanced as other beautiful places have done. It is as if Cornwall had been a sovereign state able to say a firm "no" to undesirable development. British governments have never grasped this

particular nettle, and we have in consequence a great deal of wrecked coast and some grossly unfair rural house ownership.

Ireland could take all sorts of interesting avoiding action. They could borrow a brilliant idea thrown up by our Labour Party in Opposition (and now apparently forgotten). This was simply that anybody buying a house which would not be fully inhabited all year would need planning permission for change of use. Weekenders could still buy cottages too small or remote for local families, but not roomy houses in the centre of villages, close to the school and the shop. Local democracy could decide.

Or they could be even more cunning and force incomers to renovate old housing stock, by allowing holidaymakers to buy only derelict cottages, those sad, stone ruins which are everywhere in the West as a reminder of the Great Famine and the emigrant ships. Coupled with tight planning regulations, this could painlessly improve the housing situation, as after spending their money the holidaymakers might well get tired of the rain and move on. Come to think of it, Britain could still do much the same with genuinely redundant farm buildings: I am sick and tired of watching holiday homes go up while nice Victorian brick-and-tile structures crumble because the owner has no use for them and the planning committee is so obstructive about conversion.

Or they could fund support for conservation and rural life by adapting the system of "social dividends" which local authorities here impose on big companies ("So build your supermarket, but put a parents' wing on the children's ward while you're at it"). On the same principle, buyers of strictly holiday properties could pay an extra dose of stamp duty; or agree to let the council rent their house all winter to locals for a quarter of the usual rate.

There are all sorts of sneaky ways in which governments, without xenophobic posturing, could prevent harm being done to the countryside and its people by fortunes made in the city. Whoever wins in Ireland should at least acknowledge that there is a problem, and that they have a chance to do better by their far west than we did. What they have — what we once had — is too precious to squander.

Do Asian values hold water?

Jonathan Mirsky deconstructs a glib phrase beloved of Far Eastern despots

One of the starkest indications that Hong Kong after the handover to China is not going to be the same good old colony merely under the Red Flag, is the regular invocation of "Chinese values" by Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive designated by Beijing to succeed the Governor, Chris Patten. He insists that Hong Kong's future administration and life must be underpinned by Chinese values.

Here is Mr Tung's list: "Trust, love and respect for our family and our elders; integrity, honesty, and loyalty to all; commitment to education; a belief in order and stability; a preference for consultation rather than confrontation." Sometimes he adds "a preference for obligation rather than individual rights". Recently, he added "Asian" values to his list: "Hard work, respect for learning, honesty, openness to new ideas, accountability, self-discipline and self-reliance." Mr Tung sees "North American" values as "freedom of expression, personal freedom, self-reliance, individual rights, hard work, personal achievement, thinking for one's self".

Copying out these two lists I became confused. Each seemed to apply both to modern Asians and Westerners all over this region.

Mr Tung is not alone in his evocation of these values. Who are the other champions of "Asian values"? Largely, authoritarian rulers in Indonesia, Burma, China and Singapore. In Asia's democracies, from India to Taiwan, Japan and South Korea, the phrase is used sparingly.

The reason is obvious: those states which fear democracy insist — like Mr Tung — on the need to keep the lid on social disorder by doing two things: they claim their peoples traditionally prefer order and consensus, and they point to the West's lack of moral fibre as a sign that there is no lid at all.

"Stability" is one of Mr Tung's watchwords, although no city in Asia is more placid than Hong Kong. But Mr Tung sees instability far beyond the colony's borders. "As a Chinese man," he says, he finds "intolerable" the notion of Tibetan, Muslim or Taiwanese independence. He is introducing laws for Hong Kong which will forbid advocating or even doing research on such independence. This is to protect China's "national security".

Some Westerners, too, claim that Asians are not interested in or fit for democracy. Money interests them, they say, and a quiet public life; foreigners who confront Asian leaders on human rights make things worse. Members of American and Western chambers of commerce in Hong Kong and Beijing rarely say a public word about human rights. But as concepts worthy of serious discussion, Asian or Chinese values fall apart. In the West one may speak — very gingerly — of an amalgam of Greek, Roman, Christian and Jewish concepts. In Asia this is impossible. What binds together the notion of Indian caste with Japanese Shinto, animism in Borneo and New Guinea, or the dozens of cultures (and languages) in the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos? Marriages, funerals, and eating habits — forks, chopsticks, hands — vary broadly. Within China itself, where is the thread from traditional Confucianism to classical Taoism and Buddhism, let alone Islam?

Consensus rather than confrontation? How about the ancient wars between Buddhist sects in Japan and Tibet? Indonesians killed hundreds of thousands of other Indonesians in 1965, allegedly because they were "communists", but really because they were Chinese. Cambodians slaughtered on the same scale in the 1970s because their victims weren't communists. During the Cultural Revolution, in a society said to revere the old and the educated, the old and the educated were killed in large numbers and in Guangxi province even eaten. Family? Some of the great novels of Asia are about family discord.

All the same things can be said about the West. For every "Thou Shalt Not" there is a violation, including religious wars, torture and killing, and the Holocaust. Naturally all such "values", attributed to groups or peoples, have their negative or abusive side. Asians interested only in money? That explains their corruption. How many in Britain, where sleaze is a byword, say when they read of an Asian offering a bribe: "What do you expect? Westerners value individualism? That explains their immodest dress, public vulgarity, and concentration on political prisoners in Third World countries struggling to feed millions of their citizens."

I value distinctions. But not at the cost of "the other". That way lies "national security". The 4th-century BC *Zuo*chuan, one of China's basic philosophical texts, says "if he is not of our race, he is sure to have a different mind". Even in modern times the names of "non-Chinese" ethnic groups have been written with complicated characters which included the ideograph for an animal. The Chinese alone, the "real" Chinese, were identified with the simple two-stroke character for human being.

Scot free

UP IN EDINBURGH, where Andrew Neil sits at the helm of the Barclay Brothers newspaper interests as Editor-in-Chief, there have been lively developments at *The Scotsman*.

Lesley Riddoch, a senior editor, founched out last week after one of her pieces was consigned to the dustbin. She is talking of suing for unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination.

The development has come as an embarrassment to the BBC, for Andrew Neil and Lesley Riddoch are both presenters of the corpora-

tion's late-night show *The Midnight Hour*.

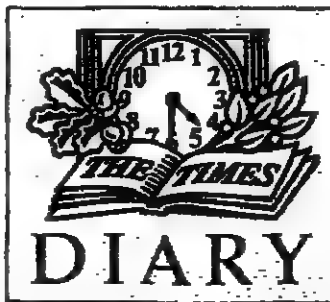
From the south of France, Neil distanced himself from Riddoch's departure. "You must speak to the editor. It's nothing to do with me," he said. Martin Clarke, the Editor recently appointed by Neil, was digging in for a battle: "We do not accept in any way that she was unfairly dismissed."

Riddoch, who edited the paper on International Women's Day, calling it *The Scotswoman*, was unavailable yesterday. But she is said to blame Neil for the change in editorial policy that led to her departure.

She is not to be taken lightly, either. When working on the show in Manchester earlier this year, "Big Les" chanced upon a drunken brawl in a back alley where a man was getting a pasting, curled up in agony on the ground. She sprang to his defence and within seconds the miscreants were themselves howling with pain.

Zut alors

FOR HISTORICALS, the French election provided better value than



our own poll on May Day. A public prosecutor is investigating a victorious Socialist candidate's complaint that she was roughed up by the National Front leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, on Friday.

Anette Feulvast-Bergeal, who beat Le Pen's daughter Marie-Caroline, accuses Le Pen of having shoved her about, scratched her neck and bruised her while trying to grab the tricolore scarf she was wearing. Her doctor says the incident forced her to take three days off work.

A dedication

NEW Labour and classical music's strident traditionalists will come together in St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, on Friday at the world premiere of *A Live Flame*: in memoriam John Smith MP, a con-

cert in honour of the man who might have been Prime Minister. The music is by Keith Burstein, an aggressively self-righteous, rather starchy composer who used to organise bands of hecklers to go about wrecking performances of modern atonal music, particularly anything by Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

Friday's concert will be attended by Smith's widow, Baroness Smith of Gilmorhill, and all members of the Cabinet have been invited. Those wanting to stay in with new Labour's groovy friends in modern design, art and music would do

well to make this Burstein gig a one-off.

● The beaming visage of France's new Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in yesterday's papers could not have been more different from his gloomy appearance in the run-up to the poll. He was distraught that the press kept referring to him as "honest Lionel" because he knew that the voters prefer their politicians to be streetwise.

Dear me

COMPARED with Margot Asquith, the impossibly vain second wife of the Liberal Prime Minister, Narcissus was a self-loathing wimp. Dorothy Parker said of her: "The affair between Margot Asquith and Margot Asquith will live as one of the prettiest love stories in all literature." Now one of her letters is going on sale at Phillips. In one she writes to her literary agent about the sale of her diaries: "In 100 years or less, they will be bought and read by everyone and I have never read anything quite like them."

She adds that she will sell them at a very high price. La belle dame would doubtless be horrified to learn that the letter is expected to fetch only £60.



Egotist: Margot Asquith

● Alan Milburn, MP, the new Minister for Health, has been rapturously welcomed by his civil servants. In Opposition, Milburn had plagued the Department of Health with written questions, forcing hours of extra work on the bureaucrats. When he arrived in his new office, he was shown an enormous file marked "Milburn" and told: "We're so glad you're here. It means no more of your blasted questions."

P.H.S



She's off: Lesley Riddoch



BASTILLE DAY

Europe will reap the whirlwind France has sown

Flush with the victory he never expected, Lionel Jospin yesterday claimed that the British and French elections "raise a magnificent hope in Europe". The Italian Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, picked up the tune, hailing Europe's "return to the roots of the great continental tradition, where the social state is transformed but cannot be swept away". A glance at Western Europe's political landscape would seem to justify their confidence that the post-1989 discomfiture of the European Left is now history. Of the 15 countries in the European Union, 13 are now governed by or with the Left. Only in Germany and Spain are the Socialists in Opposition and in both countries, public patience with fiscal austerity and massive unemployment is fraying.

On closer inspection, this vision of socialism triumphant evaporates. There is a world of difference between the reinvention of the Left which alone made Socialist parties electable in Britain, The Netherlands or, to some extent, Sweden, and the political phenomenon which has once more returned the Left to power in France. What has occurred is a sinister radicalisation of French politics. M Jospin will move into the Hôtel Matignon today courtesy of two phenomena — the great surge of support for the only European Communist Party that has changed neither its name nor its doctrines, and which with 38 seats is already demanding its kilo of flesh; and the cynical manipulation of the vote by the extreme right-wing National Front, whose supporters in the urban working class engineered the Centre Right's defeat in 47 constituencies.

The singularity of the French election result does not end there. The voters were not even repudiating a Government wedded to free markets and private enterprise, because that was not what they had. Under the Juppé coalition, France was a tax-and-spend state. Tony Blair has far more in common with Baroness Thatcher than he does with President Chirac, who has old Gaullism's fondness for the strong, paternalistic state. In the modernisation stakes, France was already a laggard before it took this giant lunge backward.

But although the French electoral catastrophe lies outside EU political norms, its pivotal position in the Union makes quarantine impossible. This round of cohabitation between President and Government will be war to the death and will create havoc in the Franco-German marriage. Helmut Kohl, whose decision to play fiscal poker with Germany's gold reserves may turn out to be as big a miscalculation as was M Chirac's electoral gamble, could be about to discover that for the first time he cannot force France back into the Maastricht straitjacket. M Chirac, who as President still wields considerable power, may be willing; but he cannot compel M Jospin to forget the Left's rash promises, persevere with belt-tightening and face the resulting street riots.

This completely changes the odds on EMU. The German Chancellor is dead set against any delay, not least because he has no intention of giving Germany's voters the chance to say what they really think about EMU. But Herr Kohl will be in severe domestic trouble if he even appears to meet M Jospin's demands for a kinder, gentler EMU including Italy, Spain and Portugal.

Because EMU for Herr Kohl is above all a political goal, he might risk that, as he did in 1990 when he defied the Bundesbank over German monetary union. The result could be the worst possible outcome for Europe, and Britain — EMU plus loose fiscal policies in France, Italy and other countries. The new European Central Bank could react, as the Bundesbank did in the early 1990s, by jacking up interest rates. Welcome to the next, protectionist, European Depression.

This underlines, however, that the fate of EMU still rests with Germany, not France — and in Germany, public anger over Herr Kohl's Rhinegold follies is shaking the political terrain. Next week the Bundestag votes on the law that would force through the revaluation of the reserves. For the first time in Herr Kohl's career, the air is thick with mutiny. If defeated, Herr Kohl would find it difficult to refuse the early elections Germany's Socialists are demanding. Tony Blair's victory is beginning to look like the least exciting European event of 1997.

A QUESTION OF TRUST

Blair should treat his colleagues like adults

"Trust me" was Tony Blair's mantra during the election campaign. But trust is something that the Prime Minister is not too keen to extend to his Cabinet colleagues. He has circulated a memorandum to them, setting down fierce rules of engagement with the media. Pretty well everything they say, write or do will have to be cleared first with Downing Street. In his own handwriting at the bottom, Mr Blair adds: "It is essential we act on this."

The new administration's obsession with control is understandable. It wants to lay two ghosts to rest: the ghost of Labour past, which was fractious and incompetent, and the ghost of Tory past, which for the last five years has been much the same. Mr Blair's colleagues may have found his collegiate style a breath of fresh air, but it encouraged leaks, faction-fighting and departmental inertia. Today's Prime Minister seems determined to avoid a repeat.

But the methods that he wants to use do seem overbearing. Ministers have been told that "it is not possible to start a debate by floating interesting ideas": all such ideas must first be cleared with No 10. Any newspaper article or media appearance must also be passed by Downing Street, which has already set itself up as a conduit even for articles by backbenchers. This is not so much efficient communication as compulsive centralisation.

If this was merely an interim measure, to ensure that new ministers realised how much more effect their words have in Government than in Opposition, then it might be acceptable. But it looks as if Downing Street has become drunk with the success of its communication strategy during the election campaign — and that it

intends to continue to function on an election footing for a full five years.

Co-ordinating policy announcements, so that one department does not steal another's thunder, is a sensible strategy for any administration. All ministers should understand that they are part of a larger team. Treating them, though, as if they are schoolchildren is another matter. The job of, say, Home Secretary is a serious one in its own right; the incumbent is not merely a servant of the Prime Minister. While Cabinet ministers should be expected to be loyal, both to their leader and to each other, they should not be subject to the humiliation of having to log all their lunches with Downing Street and to check with the Prime Minister's press secretary before they dare to cough.

The techniques of Opposition do not translate naturally to Government. Being a minister is as much about doing as saying. And much of the talking is deliberately intended to ignite public debate. "Kneeflying" is an old and honourable method of moving policy ideas into the public domain to test their strength before they are enacted or dropped. If the debate can take place only in Downing Street, then the Government will be working within an unhealthy narrow frame of reference.

Of course, the new edict may not work for long. It may even contain the seeds of its own demise. If ministers are treated like children, they will be tempted to behave like children: bickering, sneaking on each other, and trying not to get caught. Newspapers, meanwhile, are likely to become sullenly mutinous. When Bill Clinton tried this media manipulation, it backfired disastrously. The lesson for Mr Blair is to loosen up before he suffers the same fate.

BETWEEN TWO EVILS

Sometimes the world needs bad cops as well as good

In Sierra Leone, the Armed Forces of Nigeria, of one of Africa's most appalling military regimes, are now fighting to put down an armed coup in the name of democracy. Nobody else wants the job, and it is in the interests of Sierra Leone's wretched citizens that the Nigerians succeed in restoring their elected President. But gratitude to Nigeria, of all countries, sticks in the world's gullet. Robin Cook's diplomacy of principle faces its first awkward test.

When Major Johnny Koromah was plotting his coup, he probably thought that the presence of Nigerian troops, part of a West African peacekeeping force for neighbouring Liberia, was irrelevant. He counted without the opportunism of General Sani Abacha, who saw an easy way to claim some democratic credit abroad.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, has given the Nigerians carte blanche by declaring that neighbouring countries are right to intervene to restore order in Sierra Leone. His concern is that a promising return to democracy — leaving one fewer problem for the Commonwealth to confront at its autumn summit — has been thwarted by a criminal conspiracy. There is no doubt that

this is a choice between two evils. General Abacha is more concerned to teach upstart junior officers a lesson than to uphold the rule of law. At the Harare summit of the Organisation of African Unity, he has been telling fellow African leaders that Sierra Leone was in too much of a hurry to get back to elected government and thus brought the coup upon itself. The moral he draws is of course that Nigeria too is better off without multi-party elections.

Nigeria's intervention could backfire. The Sierra Leone coup leaders are rallying people to their side against the Nigerians and the token forces from Ghana and Guinea. The Revolutionary United Front, a vicious band of bandits that has terrorised the country for the past six years, is now posing as a patriotic force. Major Koromah appears to be no more than a front-man for the RUF. But if Nigeria fails, Sierra Leone, one of the world's poorest countries, would fall under gangster rule. Britain, America and France are telling the rebels that their coup cannot succeed. To reinforce that a weary message, they need Nigeria. That should not prevent them from insisting that since for the Sierra Leone goose goes equally well with the Nigerian gander.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Power of Blair's advisers at No 10

From Sir Brian Barber

Sir, Sue Cameron is shocked by the attendance of Labour Party officials, Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell, alongside civil servants at Peter Mandelson's morning meetings and by their roles in No 10 (Mandelson and the new mandarins, May 30). She asserts that such "politicisation" will weaken our constitutional checks and balances, guaranteeing an impartial public service, and that any change in this area must have public consent, not be effected by stealth.

Was Ms Cameron equally alarmed by the roles in No 10 and more widely in Whitehall during Mrs Thatcher's regime of Charles Powell — who, like his brother Jonathan, had a Foreign and Commonwealth Office background, but who, unlike Jonathan, was not even the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, as Jonathan is to become; and of Bernard Ingham, who also had a public service background but who was surely no less politically and personally committed to the Prime Minister than Alastair Campbell is likely to be, and who performed at least as political a role?

Even more pertinently, was Ms Cameron not at all troubled by the Thatcher and Major Governments' actions in destroying the structure and principles of a single, unified, permanent public service, independent of political influence, recruited and promoted by a publicly owned and controlled impartial process, with its salaries common to all departments on unified, published and transparent pay scales?

Not one of these essential guarantees of an impartial, independent public service was left intact by the Governments of the past 18 years, and their acts of destruction were certainly committed without the public consent rightly valued by Ms Cameron.

Some of these acts, such as the sale to commercial interests of the public service's recruitment and assessment agency, were pushed through in the teeth of declared opposition (including opposition from Conservative peers and MPs) from both Houses of Parliament, the media, and other elements of informed opinion.

Compared with this wholesale vandalism, the presence at Mr Mandelson's morning meetings of Jonathan Powell and Alastair Campbell looks like very small beer.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN BARBER

(Home Civil Service, 1957-64;
HM Diplomatic Service, 1965-94),
10 Melrose Road, SW18,
June 1.

From Lord Donoughue

Sir, Your Whitehall Editor's statement ("Political make-up of Whitehall increases", report, June 2) that "the Downing Street policy unit is customarily staffed by a mix of career civil servants and political appointees, in roughly half-and-half balance" needs qualification.

When in March 1974 Prime Minister Harold Wilson asked me to establish a new policy unit in No 10, I deliberately composed it of outside policy experts. Between 1976 and 1979 I continued that approach under James Callaghan.

We worked closely and constructively with regular civil servants in No 10 (who saw all our briefs and sometimes made shrewd suggestions for improving them), with those in the Cabinet Office and the rest of Whitehall. But it was my firm view at that time that the policy unit would contribute best to the then Prime Minister if its members shared his political dimension and priorities — and his electoral fate if together we got too much wrong. Its young members later progressed to distinction in several professional fields.

Two subsequent Prime Ministers have run the policy unit differently. That was right, since there is no single fixed mode of operation and the unit's one fixed purpose is to serve the objectives and style of the Prime Minister of the day.

Tony Blair will find the balance of composition which suits him. In today's more inclusive and less partisan climate, he could beneficially choose more widely than was appropriate in the 1970s. But it is important that the policy unit remains distinct and never becomes just another cog in the Whitehall machine.

Mr Blair is certainly right to direct the unit to longer-term policy considerations. My unit was too often totally absorbed in the short-term crises of the day.

Yours,
BERNARD DONOUGHUE
(Senior Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister and Head of the Policy Unit, 1974-79),
House of Lords,
June 2.

Smokeless zone

From Mr Derek R. Poole

Sir, In taking political correctness to absurdity, should not only Brunel's cigar be removed from his portrait promoting the village of Neyland (report, May 20) but his stovepipe hat reduced in size and fitted with a solar panel?

Yours faithfully,
DEREK R. POOLE,
Down House,
Far Green, Coaley, Gloucestershire,
May 29.

Building new homes in countryside

From Mr Howard Rafael, RIBA

Sir, Since I last lived in England in the early 1960s the proponents of low density suburban living have won the battle against the urbanists. As a result England's housing industry is only able to build dwellings affordable to a private sector mass market by using countryside land.

Proposed developments such as Micheldever Station in Hampshire (report, May 28) use up greenfield land at the ratio of one acre for every four dwellings. At this rate about one million acres of countryside will become suburbanised to accommodate most of England's projected new households over the next 20 years.

New villages, towns and peripheral low density expansion plans focus primarily on one lifestyle, the time spent raising a family. However, the housing spectrum should also accommodate childless young adults and older active empty nesters who could occupy 40 or more dwellings on an acre of land instead of just four.

England's politicians and planners believe it is wrong to encourage high density living. Until they are convinced that large numbers of childless adults of all ages would actually prefer to live in appropriately conceived high-rise environments located in existing urban areas (ideally integrated with mass transit systems and near high schools), both city and countryside will continue to decline.

England's few remaining high density urbanists of influence need to raise their sights and do battle once again.

Yours sincerely,
H. RAFAEL,
36 Maybury Court,
Maylebone Street, W1,
May 29.

From Mr Malcolm Peel

Sir, Your report of the plan to build a new town at Micheldever Station throws into stark relief one of the most serious failings in transport policy of successive governments: the dichotomy between decision-making on transport and land use. In fact, the two are sides of the same coin.

The proposed new town would be, as you report, "on the Southampton-London (railway) line", with easy access to the M3. Thus, the traffic it generated could be handled by public transport and the existing road system.

However, a development on the edge of an existing conurbation would impose a new conflicting web of move-

ment. Such flows inevitably increase car dependency, thus requiring enlargement of and changes to road infrastructure and parking facilities throughout the area and beyond. Traffic congestion is increased because of conflicts between new and existing flows.

The arrival of a fresh Government and the uniting (for the second time) of the Departments of Transport and the Environment must provide a desperately needed opportunity to take full account of the crucial interactions between transport and land use. Micheldever Station may be, as you imply, a test case.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM PEEL
(Author, *Making Tracks for the Future — Towards a National Transport Policy*, British Institute of Management, 1992),
12 Lindsey Close,
Woodnewton,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
May 28.

From Admiral of the Fleet
Sir Henry Leach

Sir, Your reports on a new town at Micheldever Station paint a sorry picture.

The direct effects of a project of this magnitude will be felt not just over the intrinsic area of the site but for ten miles in each direction. The result would be the *de facto* joining up of Winchester with Basingstoke, any gaps being legitimately in-filled by subsequent speculators. Thus the ghastly ribbon-development of the early 1930s would be resuscitated: what a disgraceful start to the 21st century.

Where are the 10,000 or more occupants of this new town to work? Not anywhere close to their homes. Since Micheldever is at the heart of prime farmland, their work will lie in towns some distance away and that distance (countryside in this case) will become increasingly clogged with commuter traffic.

This whole retrograde venture is being pushed by a well-known company. It is to be hoped that the Secretaries of State for Heritage and the Environment will exercise their good sense to stop this shortsighted foolishness before the current machinations have gone too far.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY LEACH,
Winston Lea,
Winston, Winchester, Hampshire,
May 29.

Unjust stigma of cowardice in war

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, Sub-Lieutenant Edwin Dyett, whom you report as having been shot for cowardice when serving in the Royal Naval Division in Flanders in 1916 (May 28; leading article, same day) was, I believe, the model for Henry Penrose in *The Secret Battle* by A. P. Herbert, a fellow officer in that division. It is one of the most moving books I have ever read.

Winston Churchill was so impressed by it that he wrote a foreword to a later edition, in which he called Penrose/Dyett "a gallant soldier borne down by stresses incredible to those who have not endured them and caught in the steel teeth of the military machine". I have never forgotten the stark sentence with which A. P. H. ended his book: "That is the gist of it, that my friend Henry Penrose was shot for cowardice, and he was one of the bravest men I ever knew."

Restitution for Edwin Dyett is long overdue; and for all those others who succumbed to the incredible stresses they were obliged to endure.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown House,
Avebury, Wiltshire,
May 30.

Mortgage tax relief

From the President of the RICS

Sir, Contrary to the implication of your report (Business, May 27) there appears to be no difference of view between the Institute of Directors and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on phasing out mortgage tax relief.

The RICS has been calling for the gradual phasing-out of mortgage tax relief for the last decade. The relief is a highly inefficient way of subsidising housing needs and we have long supported replacing both it and housing benefit with a new type of allowance available purely on the basis of need.

What we oppose is the removal of mortgage tax relief in one go, whether with immediate effect or from a future specified date. Such a move would sap confidence, destabilise the market and deal a disproportionate blow to homeowners in the North, where house prices are lower than elsewhere.

The record of sudden government interventions in the housing market has not been a happy one. We do not want to have a rerun of the 1988 debacle when dual mortgage tax relief was abolished, precipitating an unsustainable boom.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY BAYLISS,
President,
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street, SW1,
May 28.

Oxford business school

From Sir Crispin Tickell

Warden of Green College, Oxford

Sir, Today's announcement about the Oxford business school is excellent news. The proposed site, now an eyesore, should eventually become the place of a building which will adorn the university and city of Oxford alike.

Now that the proposals for the Said Business School Foundation have been published the concerns referred to in your report (May 30) can be seen to be unfounded.

There is no threat to academic freedom. The foundation will have no involvement in the academic direction or day-to-day management of the school. The foundation trustees as a whole (four appointed by Waffa Said, four by the university and two chosen from outside) will need to approve the appointment of a director.

The university will make a recommendation to the trustees, whose priority will be to ensure that a candidate has the international standing required to match the university's ambitions for the school.

Yours sincerely,
CRISPIN TICKELL,
Warden, Green College,
Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HG,
May 30.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Trees to mark the next millennium

From Mr Nicholas Albery

Sir, Many children and adults living in cities are remarkably ignorant about trees. A suitable millennium project (letter, May 27) to counter this ignorance would be an "A to Z" avenue of the most common trees, in an urban park or on a site readily accessible from a city, with each tree in the alphabetical order of its common name (with variants going off sideways). Trees would be labelled with their common and Latin names.

Visitors would find it easier to identify and remember trees from knowing their position in the avenue — for instance, at the start would be acacia, alder, almond, apple and ash; and at the end walnut, wellingtonia, whitebeam, willow and yew. Depending on the space available, there could be between 35 (UK native trees) and 500 trees (including more exotic ones from around the world).

Ideally, the avenue would lead to a striking building of some kind, like the pagoda avenue at New Gardens, and incorporate a café and a multimedia tree study centre.

Such a project would take many years to reach maturity, but would become a site that every school would want to visit.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS ALBERY,
20 Heber Road, NW2,
June 1.

Renewable energy

From Viscount Tenby

Sir, As a crossbencher I asked an unstarred question (in effect a time-limited mini-debate) in February on the impact of wind farms on the rural environment. My purpose was neither to condemn nor to promote, but to discuss the long-term implications of such structures on landscapes of more often than not, outstanding beauty.

In addition to myself and Earl Ferrers, then Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, there were 12 other speakers, and many more who would like to have made a contribution but were deterred by the time limit of one hour.

I am accordingly heartened by the varied correspondence in your columns (May 28) and hope the matter will continue to be aired on a regular basis. No responsible person would seek to query the importance of renewable energy, but its contribution to our requirements and any impact it may have on the environment must be carefully and impartially scrutinised.

The new Government has already shown a welcome readiness to put in hand long-term reviews of major current concerns. May I suggest that the whole subject of renewable energy be added to the list.

Yours faithfully,
TENBY,
House of Lords,
May 29.

From Mr T. R. H. Kimber

Sir, As Michael Hornsby's excellent report (May 20) clearly showed, wind power and the gesture politics which supported the subsidies it carried are on the point of collapse.

The principal beneficiaries of those subsidies have not been the taxpayers who paid for them. They have been our utility companies, landowners receiving rents for turbine sites, overseas turbine manufacturers and of course the wind farm operators.

Efficient renewable energy is almost as desirable as improved energy use. Whilst such aspirations are beyond reproach, wind power is not. Now is the time to pull the plug.

Yours faithfully,
TIM KIMBER,
Newton Hall,
Nr Carnforth, Lancashire.

Supermarket trolleys

From Mrs Marilyn Hayward

Sir, Today's leading article on supermarket trolleys (see also letter, May 29) is a little behind the times. There is no need to feel embarrassed about the paucity of one's purchases.

Both my local Waitrose and Tesco have smaller "in between" trolleys which wheel beautifully and are perfect for the single or dual shopper. The only time my husband and I need a large trolley is when we are stocking up on wine and sherry.

Yours sincerely,
MARILYN HAYWARD,
8 Langham Way,
Ely, Cambridgeshire,
May 24.

Water off a duck's back

From Mr Mike Peacey

Sir, Mr Tony Fuller (letter, May 30) might be interested to note that ten plastic ducks' worth of aid to Ethiopia provides access for one person to one tap of untreated raw spring water in open country — a facility to be shared by at least 200 other people.

Whilst this represents real progress to many parts of the developing world, I'm sure it would not be viewed with the same optimism in Mr Fuller's native Chipping Norton.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. PEACEY
(Head of media and design),
Wessex Water, Wessex House,
Passage Street, Bristol,
May 30.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 2: The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Fellow, the Zoological Society of London, this morning opened the new breeding facility for Asian elephants at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire

(Mr Samuel Whitbread). His Royal Highness, Master, this evening attended the Trinity-Tide Dinner at Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Master, will attend the annual court meeting, church service and luncheon at Trinity House, Tower Hill at 11.35. The Duke of York, Elder Brother, will also attend.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Founder and Chairman of the International Trusts of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, will give a reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00 and will attend a dinner at St James's Palace at 7.45. Prince Edward, as International Trustee, will also attend the dinner.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a reception at the RAF Club at 6.30 to mark the club's 75th anniversary.

The Princess Royal, as Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Signals, will visit the 14th Signal Regiment (Electronic Warfare) at Cawdor Barracks, Haverfordwest, at 10.00.

Princess Margaret will open the British Interior Design Exhibition, in aid of Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People at 1 Cambridge Gate, Regent's Park at 6.45.

The Duke of Kent, as President, the Engineering Council, will open the new regional headquarters of Halliburton Brown and Root, Hill Park, Springfield Drive, Leatherhead, at 11.45; and will open the Meadows Mental Health Unit, West Park Hospital, Epsom at 2.30.

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London
The Lord Mayor of London was the speaker at a luncheon of the Rotary Club of London held yesterday at the Portman Hotel. Mr Bill Cowen, president, was in the chair.

Reception

African European Union Economic Forum
Mr Julius Nyerere was the guest of honour at a reception held last night at Equator House, Warwick Square, for representatives of organisations taking part in the London launch of the African Nyerere Foundation. Mr Roger Sibley, chairman of the Africa European Union Economic Forum, and trustees of the foundation received the guests.

Dinners

Inner Temple
The Treasurer, Lord Justice Staughton, and the Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple entertained the High Sheriffs of England and Wales at dinner in the Inner Temple Hall last night.

Institute of Materials
Professor Anthony Kelly, President of the Institute of Materials, was in the chair at the annual dinner held last night at Grosvenor House. Among the guests were Sir Robert May, FRs.

Today's birthdays

Dr E. Armstrong, secretary, BMA; 52: Mr P.J. Attenborough, publisher; 61: Sir Robin Black, diplomat; 61: Sir Peter Blyth, chief executive, BT; 62: Lord Braden of Oakbrook; 77: the Earl of Cromer; 51: Mr Tony Curtis, actor; 72: Professor Richard D'Aeth, former President, Hughes Hall, Cambridge; 85: Mr Timothy David, diplomat; 50: Mr Vincent E. Davies, Indian civil servant; 74: Mr Michael Elliott, MEP; 65: Mrs Sheila Faith, former MP and MEP; 69: Professor R.N. Franklin, Vice-Chancellor, City University; 62: General Sir Michael Gow; 73:

Air Marshal Sir John Harris, 59; Professor Michael Jaffe, former director, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; 74: Mrs Cynthia Lawrence, former Headmistress, Harrogate Ladies College; 64: Viscount Massereene and Ferrard; 57: Sir Harry Pitt, FRS, former Vice-Chancellor, Reading University; 85: Mrs Anita Pollack, MEP; 51: Mr Alan Rennie, film director; 75: Mr Wilfred Theiger, explorer and writer; 57: Miss Penelope Wilson, actress; 62: Cardinal Thomas Winton, Archbishop of Glasgow; 72:

1920s house was left untouched for fifty years

Furniture, pictures, porcelain to be sold

By JOHN SHAW

A 1920s house that has been untouched since its owner died in 1947 closed its doors for the last time yesterday before a £200,000 auction of its interiors.

111 Crest, Mount Pleasant, Norwich, was the home of William Henry Henry Clarke, a wealthy local shoe manufacturer. He and his wife Rosina, keen collectors, built the house between 1914 and 1920 and filled it with period art and antiques. Mr Clarke, one of the longest-serving directors of Norwich City F.C., died in 1947.

His son Bill, who took over the family business before it was sold to K. Shoes, kept everything just as his parents created it. He died last year, aged 91, and now the collection is being sold by Sotheby's.

Furniture, pictures, porcelain and Art Deco figures, all arranged in a series of distinctive period rooms, retain the distinctive atmosphere of the 1920s. The most expensive things are likely to be two paintings by Sir Alfred Munnings, an artist with links to East Anglia. *Memorandum Hill, Suffolk*, the painter's home, is likely to make about £50,000, and *Under Canvas*, a line of horses in a gypsy encampment from 1912, is expected to fetch £30,000.

There is also an extensive group of Chinese and Japanese porcelain and furniture by Waring and Gillow. The contents will be amalgamated with those of another house and sold at Brockhall, Northamptonshire, on June 16.

Harry Dalmy, of Sotheby's, said: "This collection was a remarkable survival. Forty or fifty years ago it would have been dismissed as old-fashioned but now we have learnt to appreciate these things again. It is a tribute to Mr and Mrs Clarke."



A painting by Sir Alfred Munnings leaves the house where it has hung since the 1920s

Linnæan Society

The Linnæan Society of London has made the following awards:
Linnæan Bursary: Dr E. Armstrong, secretary, BMA; 52: Mr P.J. Attenborough, publisher; 61: Sir Robin Black, diplomat; 61: Sir Peter Blyth, chief executive, BT; 62: Lord Braden of Oakbrook; 77: the Earl of Cromer; 51: Mr Tony Curtis, actor; 72: Professor Richard D'Aeth, former President, Hughes Hall, Cambridge; 85: Mr Timothy David, diplomat; 50: Mr Vincent E. Davies, Indian civil servant; 74: Mr Michael Elliott, MEP; 65: Mrs Sheila Faith, former MP and MEP; 69: Professor R.N. Franklin, Vice-Chancellor, City University; 62: General Sir Michael Gow; 73:

BIRTHS

1961, Budapest, 1899: Josephine Baker, singer, St Louis, Missouri, 1906.
DEATHS: William Harvey, physician, Saffron Walden, Essex, 1667; George Boole, composer, Boulogne, France, 1878; Samuel Plimsoll, "the sailors' friend", Folkestone, 1898; Johann Strauss the Younger, composer of *The Blue Danube*, Vienna, 1899; Franz Kafka, writer, Kierling, Austria, 1924; Angelo Roncalli, Pope John

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Marriages

Mr D. Aeron-Thomas and Miss C.M. Mayo
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 17, 1997, at St Mary's Church, Wimbledon, of Mr David Aeron-Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Paul Aeron-Thomas, of Aberystwyth, Gwent, to Miss Catherine Margaret Mayo, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Mayo, of Wimbledon.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Chris Patterson, Lucy Burton and Thomas Mayo. Mr Tom Christopherson was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride, in Wimbledon, and the honeymoon was spent in the Outer Hebrides.

Mr M.E. Farrant and Miss A.P.S. Dumas
The marriage took place on May 22 between Mr and Mrs Keith and Anne Farrant and Leafy, daughter of Jeremy and Lizzie Dumas, of West Mersea, Essex.

Mr W.R.C. Meredith and Miss N.C. Sequeira
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 31, 1997, at the Church of St Thomas More, Dulwich, of Mr William Rufus Charles Meredith, younger son of Mr and Mrs Bill Meredith, of Shenfield, to Miss Nicola Caroline Sequeira, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Leslie Sequeira, of Dulwich.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Jennifer David, Miss Julie Killick, Samuel Carswell and Grace Carswell. Mr Stephen Meredith was best man.

A reception was held at the Dulwich Picture Gallery and the honeymoon will be spent in the Caribbean.

Mr M.C. Motley and Miss M.M. Carter
The marriage took place on Saturday, May 31, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Epsom, between Mr Mark Motley and Miss Melissa Carter. Nuptial Mass was celebrated afterwards by the Most Rev Maurice Courve de Murville, Archbishop of Birmingham, assisted by Father Mark Hartley, O.C.R., and Father James Ward, at Holy Trinity Church.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lucy Hawley, Georgina Friend, Olivia Jones, Tom Morris-Eyton, Hugo Mayes, Miss Catherine Carter and Miss Mireille Wenger. Mr Anthony Loudon was best man.

A reception was held at Epsom Castle and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

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The marriage took place on Saturday, May 31, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, Epsom, between Mr Mark Motley and Miss Melissa Carter. Nuptial Mass was celebrated afterwards by the Most Rev Maurice Courve de Murville, Archbishop of Birmingham, assisted by Father Mark Hartley, O.C.R., and Father James Ward, at Holy Trinity Church.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Lucy Hawley, Georgina Friend, Olivia Jones, Tom Morris-Eyton, Hugo Mayes, Miss Catherine Carter and Miss Mireille Wenger. Mr Anthony Loudon was best man.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.F. Browne and Miss K.F. Habbershaw
The engagement is announced between William, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Browne, of Walsby, York, and Kate, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.W. Habbershaw, of North Cliffe, York.

Mr A.P. Cheshire and Miss H. Jones
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Dr and Mrs Philip Cheshire, of Warwick, and Henrietta, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Jones, of Bowral, New South Wales, Australia.

Mr M.P. Huntman and Miss K.J. Leeding
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ron Huntman, of Cambridge, and Katherine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Leeding, of Henerton, Henley-on-Thames.

Mr S.E. Jones and Miss K.F.Y. Barnfather
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Leonard W. Jones, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, and Katherine Francesca Yarker, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs R. David Barnfather, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr E.R. Peel and Miss C.C.M. Turquet
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Peel, of Tolleshunt D'Arcey, Essex, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr Andrew Turquet, of Wellington, New Zealand, and Mrs Susan Turquet, of Holland Park, London.

Mr G.W.A. Watson and Miss R.C. Nicholls
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BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Jesus proclaimed: To believe in me, is not to believe in me but to believe in him who sent me, John 12:44

BIRTHS

ABERTON - On May 30th, 1997, to Alexandra (née Goodman) and David, a daughter, Emily Alexandra, a sister for Emily.

ADOLFSON-MARIN - On May 31st, 1997, to Karlene and Maria, a daughter, Anna Karen, a sister for Anna.

BETANZUR - On May 18th, 1997, to Sophie (née Farrell) and Marco, a son, Thomas Federico, a brother for Thomas.

BOHE - On May 19th, 1997, to Melanie (née Foreman) and Lee, a daughter, Phoebe Elizabeth, a sister for Phoebe.

COHEN - On May 30th, 1997, to Sarah (née van Laan) and Charles, a daughter, Charlotte Lucy, a sister for Charlotte.

COLVER - On May 29th, 1997, to Emma and Neil, a daughter, Grace Elizabeth, a sister for Grace.

CHRIST - On May 31st, 1997, to Lucy and Andrew, a son, Michael.

DREW - On Saturday May 31st, 1997, to Pamela and Andrew, a daughter, Hannah Rebecca, a sister for Hannah.

EAMON - On May 30th, 1997, to Patsy (née Wood) and Kevin, a son, Benjamin John, a brother for Benjamin.

EASTAUGH - On May 29th, 1997, to Philippa (née Caldwell) and James, a son, Samuel John Timothy.

FULLER - On May 28th, 1997, to Charlotte (née Sutherland) and Michael, a son, Henry Hamilton, a brother for Henry.

GILES - On May 16th, 1997, to Catherine (née Walsby) and Richard, a daughter, Felicity Isabella, a sister for Felicity.

GOLDSBERG - On May 28th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Alison (née Foster) and Neil, a son, George John Ralph, a brother for George.

GREEN - On May 28th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Valérie and Mark, a son, Roy Connors, a brother for Roy.

GUERY - On May 28th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Susan and Robert, a son, Edward Charles, a brother for Edward.

HAPPE - On May 30th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Felicia (née Smith) and Eric, a daughter, Lucy Maria, a sister for Lucy.

BIRTHS

LESLIE - On May 23rd, 1997, to Sandra (née Brown) and Michael, a son, Andrew Michael, a brother for Andrew.

LEWIS - On May 28th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Simon and Susan, a daughter, Anna, a sister for Anna.

MOORE - On May 31st, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Charles and Peter, a son, Charles, a brother for Charles.

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POWELL - On May 28th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Simon and Susan, a daughter, Anna, a sister for Anna.

REYNOLDS - On May 28th, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Simon and Susan, a daughter, Anna, a sister for Anna.

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DEATHS

BRAND - On May 31st, 1997, to the Portland Hospital, to Simon and Susan, a daughter, Anna, a sister for Anna.

2
TODAY



R.B. Kitaj puts his pain on show at the Royal Academy
PAGES 32-34



**A boom ahead for
the lawyers dealing
with planning?
PAGES 35-37**



**Adams cuts loose
as Derbyshire
defeat Australia
PAGES 43-48**

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
46, 47**

TUESDAY JUNE 3 1997

Four appointments hailed as adding credibility to rate-fixing body

City relief at new Bank advisers

Adam Cole, UK economist at HSBC James Capel, said:

But there was some concern

Professor Goodhart, professor of banking and finance at the London School of Economics, served as a monetary adviser at the Bank for 17 years until 1985. Regarded as an expert on monetary policy, he will continue to work at the ISE.

London Business School and Barclays Bank before becoming chief economic adviser to the Treasury in 1991. He escaped criticism over the ERM debacle in 1992 and is credited with helping to restore economic credibility under Kenneth Clarke. Dr Julius, a US citizen, has been chief economist at Shell and previously worked at the World Bank in Washington. She will take up a full-time post at the Bank.

French Socialists' win upsets markets

Money supply figures showed M0, the measure of narrow money, rising 6.1 per cent in May. The City expected a 6.5 per cent rise. Consum-

Debut drop for Halifax as members take windfall

They would have done better to hold on and sell in the

Shares in the banking sector



Ex-building society: Mike Blackburn, Halifax chief executive, left, and John Foulds, chairman, celebrate yesterday's flotation on the Stock Exchange.

Metroline chief in line for £3.3m

Metroline, which was bought for £20 million, is expected to be valued at £35 million on flotation.

Another, much smaller, auction took place yesterday to deal with shareholders whose forms, indicating that they wanted to sell through the Halifax's free dealing service, arrived late. Nearly 9.7 million shares were sold in this auction, representing 0.4 per cent of the share capital.

Ronson pair quit as loss deepens

Last October the group raised \$10.5 million in a rights issue at

a former managing director of Our Price records, as managing director.

**Strong may
receive
extra payoff**

sources director, received
£223,000.

Lanica share halt may last months

Galileo, the company set up to make the Co-op bid, which is now in liquidation. The Stock

Commentary, page 27

Enron will pay \$440m to settle dispute

BY CARL MORTISHED

Tempus, page 28

Tempus, page 28

JOHN FLAMSTEED.

Astronomer Royal,
produced catalogue in 1670 fixing
position of stars in the sky.

JOHN CHARCOL.

Mortgage Specialist, produced fixed rate deal at 6.99% (7.39% APR) until 1 April 1999, kept down to earth at 7.99% or less until 1 April 2002.

JOHN CHARCOL

[illegible]

Pension firms face pressure for fairer service

By NATHAN YATES

THE pensions industry is on the brink of radical overhaul and private pension holders must be offered a fairer and cheaper service, the Government said yesterday.

Speaking to pension company representatives and TUC delegates, John Denham, the Pensions Minister, delivered a thinly veiled threat that pension providers will be expected to sharpen their services and cut their charges as the Government welfare review gets under

way. "There is a deep and widespread sense that the system at the moment is not working," he said. "People who do not have an occupational pension are being hit by high charges and inflexible products. We will be addressing this issue, and pension companies should be looking now at a higher quality of provision."

The move reflects concern that the proposed "stakeholder" pension, which will foster an extensive growth in private schemes, could founder in excess profits for providers. Mr Denham cited one example in which a

customer faced charges devouring 30 per cent of his pension fund. He also pledged that the trend for employers to replace final salary pensions with defined contribution schemes will be closely monitored. Because they guarantee the sum paid into a fund rather than that paid out, defined contributions schemes transfer the risks and possible extra costs of pension provision from employer to employee.

A report by Gissings, the actuarial group, last week found that 37 per cent of companies now offer pensions on a defined contribution

basis. Mr Denham stressed that the Government's plans for widening participation in second-tier private pensions are not intended to undermine final salary schemes. Instead the aim is to assist the 50 per cent of workers who have no access to occupational pensions. "We want everyone to be able to look forward to a comfortable and dignified retirement," he said.

In a reversal of old Labour union policy, a TUC spokesman welcomed the move towards stakeholder pensions, but said care must be taken to avoid another mis-selling scandal.

Brussels to press for new curbs on closures

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRUSSELS is proposing that new limits on the ability of companies to close their plants be put to employers and union leaders.

The proposals, endorsed by the European Union, are to be presented within days. They will require companies considering major plant closures to first go through new consultation procedures.

Under European law, EU member states except Britain are already required to put large-scale restructuring proposals through consultative mechanisms with employees by means of European works councils. Britain's social chapter opt-out, which the Government has pledged to end,

means that the UK is not covered by the works council legislation, though many British firms have implemented it successfully.

However, new measures are being introduced after the large-scale row which broke out when Renault, the French carmaker, announced plans to close its Belgian factory at Vilvoorde. Renault's move, which will mean the loss of at least 3,000 jobs directly, led to widespread protests and strikes, plus two legal judgments against the company.

Commission officials feared that Ford was about to follow suit in the UK when it announced the closure of its plant at Halewood, on Merseyside, though a deal was eventually agreed to save the factory.

Employment ministers from all EU member states have been drawing up proposals to try to stave off similar moves by other firms, and details of the plans will be put to employers and employees' meetings this week.

Under the terms of the proposals, companies planning major closures will be pressed to first seek conciliation, where an independent outsider will examine alternatives to closure, and then to mediation, where the mediator will propose a solution.

Full details of the proposals will on Friday be put to Unice, the Europe-wide employers' body, and to unions in the European TUC. Jacques Santer, the European Commission president, wants both of the so-called social partners to consider progress on European initiatives on part-time working, but the proposals for a new code on plant closures are to be put to them as well.

Ad Melkert, the Dutch social affairs minister, said: "The European Commission is investigating whether there is a need for a mediation and conciliation mechanism. Employees and employers alike would then be able to call on such regulations to facilitate solutions for trans-national labour conflicts."

Ministers and Commission officials are predicting that the new proposals will be carried by employment ministers from all EU member states when they meet later this month in the EU social affairs council.

Andersen rethink on leadership

By ROBERT BRUCE AND JON ASHWORTH

ANDERSEN Worldwide, the world's biggest accounting and professional services organisation, has been caught in an embarrassing leadership tussle.

Its board of partners had recommended Jim Wadia, UK managing partner of Arthur Andersen, as successor to Larry Weinbach, who steps down as chief executive in August. However, Mr Wadia failed to gain the necessary two-thirds "super-majority" vote from Andersen's 2,700 partners in 80 countries.

The Andersen board has now swung behind George Shaheen, managing partner of Andersen Consulting. A new ballot has been called, with the results due later this month.

Mr Wadia was appointed managing partner of Arthur Andersen in the UK in 1993, and he would have been the first non-American to head Andersen Worldwide.

Competitive pressures within the organisation have been growing since 1989, when Andersen Consulting was spun-off as a separate business under the Andersen Worldwide umbrella.

Many Andersen partners have expressed support for splitting Andersen into separate business units. However, they put such issues aside in Paris, supposedly ushering Andersen into a new era of co-operation. Mr Shaheen has endorsed the supposed show of unity, saying: "This shared institutional vision is one of our greatest strengths."



Henry Roberts, chief executive of Northumbrian Fine Foods, reported a 25 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £1.13 million in the year to March 31. The total dividend is lifted 50 per cent to 0.15p a share, payable from earnings that rose 25 per cent to 1.84p.

Watchdog may face Rees' revolt on pricing

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE next price review for the electricity industry could be disrupted by a mass of referrals to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if the regulator does not allow companies to pass on the windfall tax in higher prices to customers.

John Roberts, president of the Electricity Association, says Professor Stephen Littlechild, the industry regulator, may face a revolt from all the regional electricity companies (Rees) if he does not take proper account of the windfall tax in his next distribution price review.

In an interview with *Power UK*, an industry journal, he said: "If he doesn't take it into account, the normal course of action for the Rees will be to go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It will have to be recognised in the price control — although perhaps not explicitly. Although companies have the right to seek a referral to the MMC if they disagree with a regulator's decision, the prospect of action from 14 companies would throw the regulatory system into mayhem. Water companies and BG and Centrica could take similar action."

Mr Roberts, who received a £1.5 million payoff when ScottishPower took over Manweb, where he was chief executive, said the electricity supply industry would accept a windfall tax more easily if the net was cast widely.

Industrial and domestic customers have already lobbied John Birtle, the Industry Minister, to make sure that consumers do not foot the bill for the windfall tax.

Tradepoint plea for additional finances

By ADAM JONES

TRADEPOINT, the electronic market set up as an order-driven rival to the London Stock Exchange, is asking shareholders for more money as it struggles to meet its break-even target.

The company has been incurring £6 million-a-year running costs, much of it staff-related, while it tries to woo a viable number of deals away from the Stock Exchange. Tradepoint, which opened its exchange in 1995, set a target of breaking even on an operational basis by the end of 1997.

Yesterday it said that it needs to handle £50 million of equity trades a day to do so.

However, in the three months to March 31, 1997, it managed an average of just £3.43 million, indicating that traded value must increase by nearly 15 times for it to break even this year.

In the nine months to the end of 1996, Tradepoint lost £4.4 million, taking its accumulated losses to £16.5 million. Yesterday it said in a statement: "The company has, through its broker Williams de Broe, entered into an interim financing arrangement and is pursuing detailed negotiations to secure long-term financing." It did not say how much it was raising.

Regulator clears ICE Securities

By ROBERT MILLER

ONE of the security firms at the centre of the investigation into Peter Young's dealings at Morgan Grenfell, was yesterday cleared of rule breaches by a City watchdog.

A confidential letter sent to ICE Securities by Ian Brown of the investigations department at the Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, said the watchdog had decided "that there are no grounds upon which any disciplinary proceedings should be taken against ICE Securities in respect of the investigation".

ICE, and Fiha Nordic, also

an SFA member which is still under investigation, provided independent valuations on European investments held in Morgan Grenfell's unit trust portfolios managed by Mr Young, who is the subject of a Serious Fraud Office inquiry, and Stuart Armer.

The SFA letter added: "As you are aware, tape recordings of telephone conversations between Peter Young, Stuart Armer and third parties are still in the process of being examined. This process is expected to take some time." The SFA said further action could be taken against ICE but this is thought unlikely.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

France backs Stena merger with P&O

THE French Government has approved the merger of the cross-Channel ferry operations of Stena Line and P&O, according to Stena's head office in Stockholm. The two companies were informed of the decision in a letter from the French Ministry of Finance and External Trade in one of its last acts before the change of government. It said the move "will allow rationalisation of the current overcapacity of cross-Channel maritime services, as well as the modernisation of the fleet and the commercial services on board".

Ferry companies have come under strong competitive pressure from the railways since the opening of the Channel Tunnel. In a statement the companies said they welcomed the decision and highlighted a passage in a letter that said the transaction did not limit trade. The merger has yet to be approved by the European Commission and the UK Office of Fair Trading. The companies said they expected both bodies to make their decisions known shortly.

Jobs boost for Belfast

MORE than 300 new jobs will be created in Belfast with the establishment of a software development centre. Information Management Resources, a Florida-based company, expects the jobs to be created over the next three years. Adam Ingram, Northern Ireland Minister, said: "Software is developing into one of Northern Ireland's most significant sunrise industries and employs 2,500 people in 40 companies." IMR will make a £2.8 million capital investment; government incentives of £1.9 million have been granted.

BNFL-Ukraine talks

UKRAINIAN officials are this week holding meetings with BNFL as the state-owned nuclear processing company bids for a £50 million contract to store fuel from Chernobyl's reactors. The interim storage solution would comprise building a dry spent-fuel storage system in the Ukraine using BNFL design and technical expertise. BNFL is hopeful that other work could come from a Chernobyl contract. As the Ukraine no longer depends on the Soviet Union for nuclear fuel cycle services, it is looking to the West for other work.

South Staffs advances

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE WATER said it had had no indication from the Government that it would have to pay the windfall tax. Despite being a regulated monopoly, the small water company will escape if Labour applies the levy to privatised companies only, some of which are campaigning for the entire industry to face the tax. South Staffs said pre-tax profit rose 14 per cent to £18 million for the year to March 31. A final dividend of 60p, due on August 1, makes a total of 89p, up 14.3 per cent.

SDX surges by 44%

SDX BUSINESS SYSTEMS, the digital business communications group that was floated in December 1996, revealed a maiden interim £1.86 million pre-tax profit, a rise of 44 per cent on the previous first half. Sales rose 42.2 per cent to £20.7 million. Earnings rose 26.8 per cent to 3.0p out of which a maiden dividend of 0.8p has been declared. Maurice Pinto, the chairman, said that the group will launch its managed network services business during the summer.

ABI moves ahead

ABI LEISURE, the caravan-maker, raised pre-tax profits 2.7 per cent to £1.9 million for the six months to February 28 on sales up 4.7 per cent to £44.8 million. Earnings rose 3.6 per cent to 3.74p out of which the half-year dividend goes up 15 per cent to 1.63p. George Shiels, chairman, said: "The trend established in recent years of higher levels of activity occurring in the second half appears to be continuing and on that basis the group's interim results are in line with our expectations."

Wyndeham at £8.5m

WYNDEHAM PRESS GROUP, the Sussex specialist printer, made pre-tax profits of £8.5 million (£5.1 million) in the year to March 31, helped by maiden contributions from acquisitions and underlying growth. Operating profits rose to £8.5 million from £5.4 million, with a £2.3 million contribution from new businesses. Earnings rose to 17.1p a share from 12.5p. A final dividend of 3.2p a share (2.7p), makes 5.1p (4.3p). The shares rose 61p to 211p.

European Telecom up

EUROPEAN TELECOM, the mobile phone distributor, reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.84 million from £2.44 million for the year to March 31. Earnings rose to 10.88p, from 6.55p, and the company is paying a final dividend of 1.75p a share, making a total of 2.5p for its first full year on the stock market. Turnover advanced to £144 million, from £78 million. European Telecom has mushroomed to become market leader in UK mobile phone distribution in just seven years.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.25	10.08	0.605
Austria Sch	13.75	10.19	3.348
Belgium Fr	61.12	56.48	0.071
Canada \$	2.382	2.18	2.52
Cyprus Cyp	0.879	0.812	11.37
Denmark Kr	11.07	10.44	176.00
Finland Mk	8.96	8.29	7.96
France Fr	9.32	9.20	246.50
Germany Dm	2.97	2.74	12.43
Greece Dr	474	437	2.48
Hong Kong \$	13.37	12.24	246.521
Ireland P	127	1.09	2.27
Israel Shk	9.88	1.14	1.59
Italy Lit	1.14	5.25	2.713
Japan Yen	204.20	187.70	187.70

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Thinning the fat cats' cream



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Flat cats throughout the land are being ordered to hand over their bonuses to good causes within the week or risk their companies being excluded from all government contracts in the future.

Now there is a message guaranteed to bring joy to the heart of the Beast of Bolsover, although it is hardly in the spirit of new Labour.

If the Government is serious about its aims of forging a new partnership with business, it needs to pick its way very carefully through the Camelot chaos. The delights of winning easy roars of approval from the workers — many of whom will be basking in the warm glow of a Halifax windfall — need to be reconciled with commercial reality.

In particular, the Government should consider what message it wishes to convey to those companies it hopes will become partners in the Private Finance Initiative schemes that are so vital to its future plans. Directors who are already wary of taking on PFI projects are likely to be even more sceptical after watching the treatment meted out to the Camelot directors.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for National Heritage, may have struggled, briefly, against the temptation to play to the gallery but he clearly could not resist the chance to publicly pillory Sir George Russell and his colleagues before demanding they

empty their pockets. The doughty Sir George was unlikely to respond well to this approach. He and his colleagues can be accused of crass insensitivity in trousering hefty bonuses after a year in which the lottery's contributions to good causes shrank, but not of theft.

Camelot has a contract with the Government to run the National Lottery. Had it failed to deliver, it would have faced heavy penalties. Missing the target date for the lottery launch, for instance, would have brought a fine of £1 million a day.

To the average scratch card enthusiast, the company's executives may not look like the premier league of management and their public pronouncements tend to reinforce that judgment. But they have fulfilled their contract and taken the remuneration that was part of it, including the bonuses that related to past performance.

As this column has remarked before, performance-related pay has widespread approval in principle but, when it delivers rewards, the green eyes start flashing almost immediately. So Sir George's suggestion that Camelot would donate to charity a sum equivalent to the offending

bonuses was never going to be enough to appease Mr Smith. He is insisting on hitting the individuals in their pockets.

This may be a popular move, but it is not the way a Government should behave. There is a widespread view that fat cats should have some of the cream siphoned off but there is a fairer way to achieve that end. If Labour wants to hit the high earners, the tax system is intended for just such a purpose.

The Chancellor's rate of change

For all the new Chancellor's reforming zeal, delivering substance to his rush of policies is proving a slower process. It has taken a rumour-filled month since the reforms at the Bank of England were first announced to put names to the new Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The four

appointees revealed yesterday ensure that the Bank's MPC will have legitimacy when it meets for the first time on Thursday, but it leaves the committee far from being the finished article. Only two of the appointees, Professor Charles Goodhart and Professor Willem Buiter, will have full voting rights in the early meetings, while Sir Alan Budd will attend only as a non-voting Treasury observer until he steps down from his post in the autumn. Dr DeAnne Julius will not attend her first meeting until September, while a replacement as Deputy-Governor for Howard Davies will not be announced until he steps down in July. The name of the second Deputy-Governor must wait until the supporting legislation is passed at some point in the distant future, although if there is any contender other than Gavyn Davies, the secret is being well-guarded.

The City broadly welcomed the appointments, despite the glaring holes, viewing them as economically and politically neutral. But there are a few obvious tension points between the new arrivals and the four members of the Bank's ancient regime. Dr Julius's appointment will live up to the debate on the importance of sterling. Professor Goodhart should provide some interesting views on the Bank's preference for using money supply figures, given that his most famous contribution to economics, "Goodhart's Law", states that any monetary indicator chosen as a base for economic policy-making quickly ceases to have any meaning.

Sir Alan Budd is also understood to believe that the economy can grow at a much faster rate without prompting higher inflation than the inflation hawks in the Bank believe. But while Sir Alan is about to take his optimistic economic outlook to the Bank, Mr Brown has called in the National Audit Office to appar-

ently enforce a more pessimistic regime at the Treasury. The City believes the NAO will find the previous Chancellor's outlook on public borrowing and economic growth too rosy, giving Mr Brown an excuse to raise taxes in his mini-budget.

But his new, independent MPC may also support the idea of a quick rise in interest rates.

Lanica investors left out in the cold

It is now nearly four months since the Stock Exchange suspended the shares of Lanica Trust. Until recently the exchange was confidently saying that it would allow the shares to be relisted once Lanica published its accounts. Now it has backtracked and it seems that the exchange is waiting for the Serious Fraud Office to complete its investigations into the business dealings of Hobson, the former corporate vehicle of Andrew Regan and David Lyons, Lanica's directors. And, as Kevin Maxwell might point out, that can be a very long time indeed.

But the SFO inquiry has no direct bearing on the finances of Lanica. An indemnity exists

because of possible legal actions arising from Lanica's involvement in the aborted bid for the Co-op, but does not cover the Hobson situation. Is there any information which is not in the public domain that could affect the share price? Probably not. Therefore why do hundreds of small shareholders in Lanica have to be disadvantaged by not being able to deal in their shares?

This pathetic behaviour brings to mind a piece of regulation the exchange might rather forget, when it suspended shares in Titagaur Jute while it pursued an insider dealing action against Reg Brealey, the chairman. The action failed, but many small shareholders were left high and dry for three years. Then the exchange fell down in its duty to Titagaur shareholders. Is the exchange now making the same mistake to the detriment of innocent Lanica investors?

Bank on it

ABBEY National walking away from possible merger talks with NatWest is not the end of the story. It could herald the start of a much-needed air of realism in the overcrowded world of high street banking where Halifax yesterday made its debut. If Abbey and NatWest don't merge others will. Egos among senior managers will always play a part in banking mergers but the bottom line will prevail. Lord Alexander and Peter Birch are big enough to know that.

Emap holds talks to dispose of business titles

By ERIC REGULY

EMAP, the publishing and radio group, is in talks to sell a substantial portion of its business magazine portfolio as part of an effort to boost margins in its business communications division.

Robin Miller, chief executive, said the group is negotiating to sell a dozen titles, including the loss-making *Media Week* and *UK Press Gazette*, to a company that he declined to identify. "We're talking seriously to one party," he said.

The business communications division, which includes trade shows related to its pub-

lications, reported a 14 per cent rise in underlying operating profit in the year to March 31. This increase, however, was not enough to match the gains in the other businesses. Underlying operating profits were up 19 per cent in radio, 57 per cent in French consumer magazines and 21 per cent in UK consumer titles, with magazines including *FHM*, *Smash Hits* and *Minx*.

The strong rise in earnings from the French magazines was behind the 40 per cent rise in pre-tax profit, to £121 million, on turnover of £768 mil-

lion, up 9 per cent. The figures exclude a one-off gain of £114 million on the sale of the newspaper and printing businesses. Adjusted earnings per share rose 42 per cent to 38.9p.

Mr Miller said trading conditions in the current year are encouraging, especially in France, where publishing margins have more than doubled to 13.2 per cent since 1995 on flat revenues. The City believes that margins will continue to improve as the French economy gains momentum. Emap is seeing the first signs of advertising revenue growth in France.

The French publishing arm is to be expanded. Emap said: "As the French economy continues to improve, launches and relaunches will become a bigger feature of Emap's business in France and from a considerably reduced cost base."

Mr Miller said the company will announce the successor to Sir John Hoskins, the chairman, in the autumn. Sir John is to retire at the annual meeting in mid-1998. Mr Miller, 56, who has been chief executive since 1985, said he would consider taking the job even though it is a non-executive position.

David Arculus, the former managing director who joined United News & Media in April, has not been replaced. His responsibilities have been "absorbed" by other directors. A final dividend of 8.7p is due on August 1, making a total of 13p, up 16 per cent.

Tempus, page 28



John Wardle, left, and David Makin intend to continue their store opening programme in spite of the setback

Airtours expands in US with Suntrips

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

AIRTOURS, the UK's second largest tour operator, has continued its strategy of selective acquisitions in North America by buying Suntrips, a Californian package holiday company.

Sunquest Holdings, the company's US subsidiary, is to pay \$20 million to acquire the whole of the issued share capital of ST Pacific Holdings, which trades as Suntrips.

Analysts said that the acquisition was small, but would complement the group's existing business in North America. Airtours has increasingly looked for purchases outside the UK that will bring it a

steady stream of income in the winter when UK travel companies traditionally suffer from a lack of cashflow. The shares rose 4p to £10.97½ yesterday.

In 1994 Airtours acquired the Scandinavian Leisure Group and strengthened its presence in the region with the purchase of the Spies Group.

The North American market is still fragmented and suffering from overcapacity. Carnival Corporation, the largest cruise line in the world, currently has 29 per cent of Airtours' stock and is expected to make a bid for the UK operator in the long term.

Grampian TV bid talks confirmed

By ERIC REGULY

SCOTTISH MEDIA, the television and newspaper company, confirmed yesterday that it was preparing an offer for Grampian Television worth £320p a share, valuing the regional ITV company at £105 million.

The price represents a premium of 22 per cent to Grampian's Friday closing price of 262½p. Analysts think the merger will be approved by the Government and the Independent Television Commission.

Scottish Media is considered the only logical buyer for Grampian and no rival bid is expected. Scottish Media is

self, however, could lose its independence. The company is owned 20 per cent by the Mirror Group and 20 per cent by Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer.

Flextech, which needs money to fund a new subscription-channel joint venture with the BBC, is thought to be willing to sell its Scottish Media stake. Mirror Group, run by David Montgomery, would be the natural buyer.

Grampian shares jumped 40p to 302½p, while Scottish Media shares closed at 690p, up 15p.

Off-screen drama, page 29

Sportswear firms hit by sales dip at John David

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in John David Sports fell nearly 18 per cent yesterday, dragging other sportswear retailers down in their wake, after the company reported a slowdown in sales and particular problems with shifting some leisurewear ranges. Its shares lost 59p to 271p, while JJB Sports lost 12½p to 492½p. Blacks Leisure slid 21p to 518½p.

The sector, already nervous by a profit warning last week from Nike, was rattled by the news that like-for-like sales at JD Sports have fallen since the end of March, after rising 15 per cent in the second half of last year. The company said that last year had been particularly strong because of the Olympics and Euro 96.

The company also said that some of its stock, particularly its more upmarket leisurewear, had been selling poorly. Peter Cowgill, financial director, said that there had been a problem with over-buying of some ranges. A new buying controller has been working to sort out the problems and the poorly selling goods will be sold off at a discount.

Pre-tax profit, after a £650,000 exceptional charge for the cost of damage caused by the Manchester bomb, rose to £9.14 million from £6.79 million. BZW, the company broker, cut its forecast for this year from £12.3 million to £11.1 million. JD Sports, 70 per cent owned by John Wardle and David Makin, its founders, will continue its store opening programme in spite of the trading setback.

Earnings per share were 13.5p. A 3.6p maiden dividend will be paid on October 1.

Tempus, page 28

Filofax suffers profits setback

By FRASER NELSON

FILOFAX, the personal organiser maker, has admitted that its 1996 range "lacked innovation and excitement" and blamed the flaw for its first profits downturn since the recession.

Robin Field, chief executive, said the company had been relying on too many old designs last year, but added that it should now return to growth after launching a new series of organisers.

He said: "It's probably been fair to say we have been

a little slow to keep up the pace of innovation. Last year, we had 20 new products in a range of 200. This year, we'll have 90 new designs on sale. We will not be looking at another year of declining profits."

Pre-tax profits fell 10 per cent to £5.92 million in the year to March 31, as earnings declined from 16p to 13.7p a share. In spite of this, the total dividend rises to 3.7p (3.35p) with a final 2.2p payable on October 31.

The company's cash pile jumped from £4.3 million to £7.4 million over the year. It intends to plough up to £2.5 million of this into a share buyback this year.

Sales in America fell 10 per cent, compared with a 22 per cent rise a year earlier. Orders to WH Smith fell by £1 million over the year after the retail chain scrapped buying Filofaxes in bulk in favour of a "just-in-time" ordering system. Mr Field said the drop was exclusive to the supply chain, and had not been accompanied by slower shop sales.



Field: lack of innovation

Leeds chief sued over £30m Algarve deal

By JASON NISSE

DAVID THOMPSON, founder of Hillsdown Holdings, and his son, Richard Thompson, who is also the chairman of the company that owns Leeds United, are due in the High Court today to defend a legal action that could leave PGA European Tour Courses open to an £8 million damages claim.

The action has led to Rupert Horner, one of the leading lights behind last year's float of PGA on the Alternative Investment Market, resigning from the board of the golf course-owning company. PGA is the UK listed vehicle of Mark McCormack, the international sports promoter.

The legal case has been brought by Roger Abraham, a former director of

Hoare Govett, the brokers, and involves a deal to develop the £30 million Quinto do Lago golf and leisure complex in the Algarve.

Mr Abraham is suing the Thompsons, their UK company, which is PGA's largest shareholder, two former directors of PGA, Mr Horner and Andrew Oliver, two Portuguese investors and a Swiss management

company. Mr Abraham has said he may also sue PGA, which has a 50 per cent stake in the company that manages Quinto do Lago, if the current account is successful.

PGA, where Richard Thompson remains as chairman and Mr McCormack is a director, has disclosed in its accounts that its potential liability could be as much as £8

million. Mr Horner said yesterday that his decision to stand down from PGA's board last month was taken because of the legal action. "I felt I could not give my undivided attention to PGA," he said. The case is expected to last at least a month and could mean that Richard Thompson will not be free to chair PGA's first annual shareholders' meeting.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Rush for Halifax shares gives boost to turnover

TURNOVER on the London stock market soared to its highest level so far this year, swollen by the rush for shares in Halifax on its debut. By the close of business last night 1.28 billion shares had changed hands, of which the Halifax accounted for more than half.

The first Halifax auction for institutional investors attracted an average bid of 732½p and was eventually struck at 721p. But at the start of official dealings the price opened at 770p — its high for the day — in spite of Friday's warning from Goldman Sachs, the US securities house, that the shares were overvalued.

But the price was unable to hold its best levels and closed at 734½p, a premium of 13½p. That produces an average windfall for the members of £2.70.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market was making heavy weather of it, although prices did close above their worst levels of the day in spite of opening falls on Wall Street. Victory for the Left in the French elections and revived fears about another rise in interest rates after the May National Association of Purchasing Managers' survey added to the gloom. But it was the sharp fall among other banking shares that did most of the damage.

The FT-SE 100 index gave up an early 24-point lead and, at one stage, was almost 72 points lower. It eventually closed 58.5 points down at 4,562.8 with another long list of ex-dividends accounting for five points of the loss.

Gallagher, last week's new entry, slid 3p to 272½p. This was in spite of the efforts of members of the Gallagher board who were busily picking up stock. Four of them picked up a total of 163,000 at prices around the 273p mark. But American investors remain net sellers and British institutions are happy to buy the shares at the lower levels. A total of 14.6 million shares had traded by the close.

Confirmation of a mild approach by Scottish Media lifted Grampian TV 40p to 302½p. It had been known for some time that Scottish wanted to make a bid. Now both sides are in talks and speculators are looking for an offer of about 320p. Valuing Grampian at £105 million, Scottish closed 10½p dearer at 691½p.

The bubble appears to have burst among the sportswear



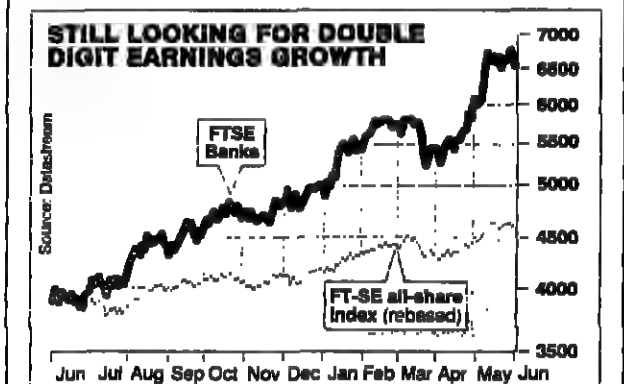
The departure of Howard Hodgson left Ronson at a new low

retailers. Just days after Nike, the US sportswear supplier, said it might miss its forecast, there was a profits warning from JD Sports, down 59p at 271p. The group said that certain lines of clothing were not selling well and would act as a brake on margins. JJB Sports was 12½p lower at 492½p and Blacks Leisure 21p off at 518½p.

News of losses totalling

about £2 million and the departure of Howard Hodgson, the former undertaker, as chief executive left Ronson 2½p down at a new low of 14p. Christine Pickles has also resigned as head of corporate development. Shaun Dowling becomes executive chairman and says that sales this year are promising.

The latest industry survey from AGB left J Sainsbury



WHILE attention focused on the Halifax, the other banks were left sharply lower on the day as the profit-takers again took advantage of recent strong gains.

Barclays fell another 58p to £10.50. In April the price was £10.50 and has since hit a peak of £12.83. Abbey National was also down, ending 33p lower at 847½p. In spite of reports that it had earlier this year rejected a bid approach from NatWest, off 20p at 724½p. There were also losses for Lloyds TSB, 30½p to 583½p. Royal Bank of Scot-

land, 28½p to 571½p. Standard Chartered, 20p to 947½p, and Alliance & Leicester, 10½p to 601½p. Johnny de la Hay, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, said that after the sector's strong run some profit-taking was inevitable. "Fundamentally, the sector is still positive. It is capable of double-digit earnings growth and dividend growth of more than 15 per cent. Balance sheets are strong and should lead to more share buybacks. There is also likely to be further consolidation."

2½p lower at 347½p after it was deemed the most expensive of the food retailers at which to shop. Tesco also fell 5½p to 370p and Sainsbury 4½p to 355p. By contrast, Asda rose 1½p to 120½p.

Flofax brushed aside a profit setback to end 5p firmer at 141½p, while Emap celebrated a 40 per cent leap in pre-tax profits with a rise of 5p to 782½p.

Fast-growing Wyndeham Press responded to a bumper profits increase with a jump of 6½p to 211p. Bid speculation drove Kalamazoo, the business equipment supplier 5½p higher to 79p.

Beaufort Group, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market, responded to more than doubled pre-tax profits with a rise of 1½p to 4½p. The business services group came to market in November last year, but issued a profits warning in January after losing a big contract. Several others were also delayed. The group is looking to make several acquisitions short term and should be capable of profits totalling £1 million for the current year.

Strong profits growth was also good for a rise in SDX Business Systems of 4p to 214½p. Not to be overshadowed by the first day of dealings in Halifax, Topps Tiles got off to an encouraging start on its debut. Shares in the group, which sells ceramic tiles, were placed at 100p by Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, the broker. After opening at 107½p, the price closed at 111½p, its best of the day, with 1.05 million shares changing hands.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices made a quiet start to the week seemingly unmoved by the swing to the left in France. Early attempts by the future to breach the £113 level ended in failure and the September series of the Long Gilt closed unchanged at £112½. Turnover on the low side with 26,000 contracts traded as investors continued to roll-over from the Treasury series.

In long-term Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fixed three ticks to £107½½, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was steady at £102½½.

NEW YORK: The Dow Jones industrial average was lower but steady in early trading. At midday, the index was down 9.87 points to 7,321.17.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 7321.17 (-9.87)
S&P Composite 849.00 (-0.72)
Nikkei Average 2041.85 (-183.04)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 14990.90 (-233.09)

Amsterdam:
BOE Index 807.48 (-16.51)
AEX 2625.7 (-15.2)

Sydney:
Frankfurt 3605.62 (-57.78)
DAX 2060.90 (-4.58)

Singapore:
Brussels 1298.11 (-76.30)

Paris:
CAC-40 2601.45 (-17.51)

Zurich:
SIX 1078.30 (-17.70)

London:
FTSE 100 4562.8 (-58.5)
FTSE 250 2216.6 (-24.2)
FTSE 100 ex-div 4562.8 (-58.5)
FTSE 250 ex-div 2216.6 (-24.2)
FTSE 100 ex-div 4562.8 (-58.5)
FTSE 250 ex-div 2216.6 (-24.2)
FTSE 100 ex-div 4562.8 (-58.5)
FTSE 250 ex-div 2216.6 (-24.2)

RECENT ISSUES:
Alliance & Leicester 601½ - 10½
Aston Villa 830 - 10½
Cable & Wireless 263½ - 10½
Clarendon 8 100 - 10½
Downing Hilt (100) 100 - 10½
Eagles 35 - 10½
Gallagher 272½ - 3
Halifax 734½ - 10½
Heart of Midlothian 104 - 10½
ITG Group 159½ - 10½
Integrated As Mgt 105½ - 10½
Lloyds Leisure 124½ - 10½
Lorbridge Int'l 119 - 10½
NMT (50) 12 - 10½
Newmark Tech 12 - 10½
Pennine AIM (100) 100 - 10½
Petra Diamonds 67½ - 10½
Petrus (143) 155½ - 10½
Soccer Investments 124½ - 10½
Soco International 236½ - 10½
Topps Tiles 111½ - 10½
Versatile Group 3½ - 10½

RIGHTS ISSUES:
Pillar Props n/p (205) 16½
Tadpole Tech n/p (10) 14½

MAJOR CHANGES:
RBS 213½p (+17p)
Leopold 515p (+10p)
Berkley Gp 711p (+10p)
Broken Hill 880p (+12p)
Euro Telecom 234p (+11p)
Chiroscience 312p (+11p)
Denka Bt Sys 610p (+15p)

FALLS:
Blacks Leisure 518½p (-21p)
Eurotherm 397½p (-11p)
Nail West 724½p (-20p)
Com Union 689p (-16p)
Abbey Nat 847½p (-33p)
Aldi Food 548p (-19p)
Alliance 436p (-15p)
Acc Accident 877p (-27p)
Bank Scotland 373½p (-11p)
Prudential 597p (-17p)
Blue Circle 410p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

On the wrong track?

SHOULD professional fund managers be regarded as sheep or lemmings? Their behaviour in relation to the Halifax flotation seems to rule out much independent thought. According to WIM Company, 14 per cent of UK pension funds are believed to be index-trackers — in other words they weight their portfolios closely to the relative market weightings of FT-SE 100 constituents. Tracker funds would therefore be expected to fill their boots with a huge stock market entrant such as Halifax but the WM figure still leaves 86 per cent of funds free to take a view on a new issue.

Where are these stockpicking fund managers hiding? Yesterday, it seems that they were dumping shares in rival banks to finance their bids for stock in the Halifax auction. So anxious were they to avoid missing out, these investment gurus bid as high as 815p for a

slug of this mortgage bank. The closing price of 734½p suggests a valuation somewhere between 15-20 per cent higher than most analysts rate Halifax on business fundamentals.

Clearly, there are more than a few closet index trackers among our brave band of fund managers. But the wider question is whether Halifax holders should fall in line with those shepherded by the index or opt out for fear that the herd is heading for the cliff edge. At this level there is little chance of the Halifax outperforming and the only reason to hold on is in the hope of a special dividend from Halifax's £3 billion-plus of surplus cash. Those who want to retain a weighting in retail banking would be better switching to cheaper stocks such as Barclays where there is still scope for cost-cutting and the hope that it will shed its investment banking business.

JD Sports

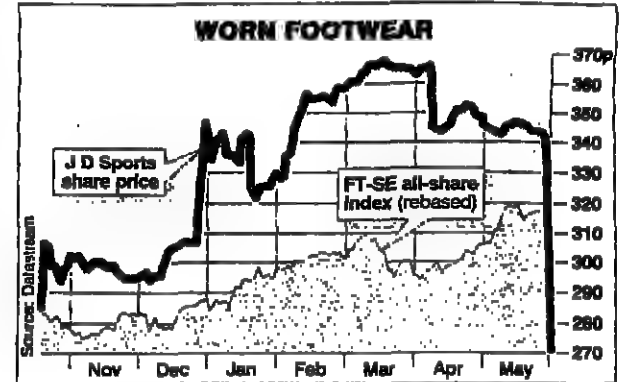
SURPRISING, perhaps, that the market did not take a cue from last week's profits warning at Nike, the sports shoe manufacturer. Poor trading from John David Sports ought to be a logical consequence but the retailer has even bigger problems than the unpredictable tastes of male teenagers: yesterday's statement gave some worrying indications that the company's stock control is not up to scratch. Since a triumphant stock market debut last September when the shares launched at a premium rating, like-for-like sales growth has tailed off and finally been thrown into reverse.

The Olympics and Euro '96 gave sportswear retailing a huge lift from free publicity, but this year the sector is finding it harder to shift merchandise. Shares in other

firms, such as JJB Sports and Blacks Leisure also fell sharply yesterday.

But John David Sports has a problem all of its own making. Some of its more expensive leisure ranges have been selling poorly and will now have to be marked down in price, something the company would normally be loathe to do as it devalues the

whole product range. This will hit margins, but the action suggests that JD Sports has a big problem with buying. A new controller is investigating but JD Sports will live or die through its ability to predict the fickle tastes of teenagers. The shares, like the leisurewear, should be left on the shelf.



Emap

EMAP shares have underperformed the market by more than 4 per cent in the past year and boardroom turmoil can take as much blame as the soft trading conditions in some of the publishing company's markets. A row over corporate governance saw the departure of two non-executive directors in December. Four months later, David Arculus, the managing director who can take much of the credit for Emap's strong performance in recent years, defected to a rival media group, triggering a sell-off.

With the turmoil of the management turmoil behind it, Emap begins to look attractive again. No new managing director has been recruited, and this is probably a good thing. New suits tend to promote flashy new strategies and Emap's old ones are working just fine. It does not, for example, need to enter the overvalued TV mar-

ket even though it is the logical extension of its multimedia activities.

Things are looking better on the operational side. Margins are improving in France, which accounts for a third of its business, despite flat revenues. Now that the French market is turning round, further margin growth is all but a certainty. The shares are worth holding at this stage.

BG

ONE can almost hear the ironic chuckles in the BG boardroom as the company contemplates its share of the £440 million settlement of the disputed take-or-pay contract over 1 block. Clearly, the old British Gas was the only company that made a mad dash for market share in the UK's bubbling gas market. Enron, the aggressive American power company, fancied itself as an expert in gas trading and managing risk. A large part of the company's

US business is in restructuring and repackaging fuel contracts for utilities. Unfortunately, its decision to acquire the entire output of J block involved taking an exceptionally long position in a foreign gas market moving rapidly into oversupply.

One consequence of the UK gas bubble is the probable disappearance of the old-style take-or-pay contracts under which the buyer acquires the entire output of a field. Gas suppliers will not regret their demise in a market that should become deeper with the arrival of the interconnector and gas exports to Holland and Germany.

BG shares are still looking attractive after a recent advance. With the upstream business valued at 100p a share, the core pipeline business is yielding about 6 per cent, even assuming no better terms forthcoming from the MMC review.

EDITED BY CARL MORTIMER

COMMODITIES

LIFFE			
Cocoa			
Jul	1027-1033	Sep	1082-1074
Aug	1045-1040	Dec	1047-1062
Dec	1036-1034	Mar	1104-1102
Mar	1045-1044	May	unq
May	1089-1086		
Jun	1071-1054		Volume 3162
ROBUSTA COFFEE (C)			
Jul	2115-2110	Mar	2120-2110
Sep	2106-2124	May	2120-2118
Dec	2106-2119	Jul	2120-2150
Jun	2171-2170		Volume 7024
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)			
Reuters		Mar	3118-3110
Aug	n/a	May	3118-3110
Dec	3251-3246	Jul	3110-3108
Oct	3160-3149	Oct	3054-3041
Dec	3110-3130		Volume 2204

ITV's off-screen drama set to resume

Eric Reguly predicts a further bout of consolidation among Britain's terrestrial television companies

Outwardly, the ITV companies are optimistic about their future. The big three American networks, they note, managed to pull out of their tailspins and hold on to their status as the country's top programmers. They think the same good fortune is in store for them. Inwardly, they are scared. A report released last month by Zenith Media, the media buyer, confirmed that the ITV market is losing altitude quickly as competition for fickle viewers intensifies. Four years ago, ITV's share of total television advertising revenue was 74 per cent. Last year, it fell to 69 per cent and it is expected to dip to 55 per cent by 2003. Channel 4's share is also plummeting.

The winners are the new competitors. After a rocky start this year, the advertising share of Channel 5, the country's last free-to-air terrestrial broadcaster, is expected to almost treble to 8.4 per cent by 2003. The satellite broadcaster, dominated by BSkyB, which plans to offer 200 digital channels next year and is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*, will probably control 17 per cent of the TV advertising market, up from 7 per cent last year.

Another report is also said to be causing anxiety

attacks in the ITV industry. The ITV Association commissioned a long-range economic model on the ITV market from Bain & Company, the management consultants. The confidential study, delivered in March, is thought to present an exceedingly bleak scenario.

In essence, the report concludes that the current investment in original programming cannot be sustained as the share in advertising revenue declines. Of course, if programming budgets are cut to meet this new reality, viewers may flee even faster than they are now. The ITV companies will use the report as ammunition in their fight to reduce their annual licence fee payments.

The ITV companies do not appear to have any long-range plan to halt the decline. In the short term, they are consolidating, with the big players swallowing the smaller ones. The latest deal, announced on Sunday, will see Scottish

Media, the ITV and newspaper group, snapping up tiny Grampian Television, based in Aberdeen, for about £100 million. Scottish Media's effort to create a dominant multimedia business north of the border as Scotland moves towards devolution seems to have driven the deal as much as the economics of consolidation.

Consolidation allows the industry's biggest names—Carlton, Granada and United News & Media, owner of the Anglia and Meridian ITV franchises—to take a larger part of a shrinking pie. Substantial cost savings can be made by combining operations, allowing the savings to be ploughed into programming.

The last consolidation round left only a handful of nominally independent ITV companies. They are HTV, owned 30 per cent by United; Scottish Media, owned 20 per cent by Flextech and 20 per cent by the Mirror Group; and Yorkshire Television, owned 27 per cent

Time to tackle exchange-rate uncertainty

Governments must make a new effort, says John Grieve Smith

Whatever the Budget may hold on tax changes, the prime concern of many firms now is the exchange-rate outlook. The problem for industry is not just the recent sharp rise in sterling, but uncertainty about future rates.

Floating exchange rates have lessened the incidence of short-term speculative crises that have caused previous governments such as the UK exit from the ERM. But industry is paying a price for the ensuing exchange-rate volatility: it is difficult to plan any investment or marketing strategy sensibly when exchange rates are liable to unpredictable change. Today's increasing globalisation of industry accentuates the need for governments to make a fresh co-operative effort to make world exchange rates more stable, whether or not EMU goes ahead.

Since the demise of the Bretton Woods fixed rate regime in the early 1970s, international co-operation has become progressively weaker. Attempts at "managed floating" have been abandoned. The ERM illustrated the difficulties on a European scale. In its latter years, members failed to agree either on the adjustments in rates needed or on action to sustain rates that came under speculative pressure. This experience suggests three valuable lessons in devising any wider arrangements.

Exchange rates cannot be set unilaterally. A system of managed rates, at any rate for the main currency blocs, depends on agreement between the key players. Changes in rates need to be relatively small and frequent to avoid occasional major adjustments. Any new regime should provide for the target rates or bands to be reviewed regularly, on an analogy with central bank interest rates. If the expected changes were relatively small, this would reduce, but not eliminate, the gains from short-term speculation.

Measures to combat speculation against agreed rates should come into operation automatically and not at the discretion of central banks or their governments. This should be the responsibility of an international stabilisation fund with the ability to

draw on sufficient funds to counter speculative forces. In considering ways to ease the problems of exchange-rate instability, one proposal that may get a new lease of life is the "Tobin Tax"—a low rate on currency transactions. This proposal, which was designed to damp down speculative exchange-rate transactions, has come under renewed discussion as a means of financing development and other international activities.

Increasing co-operative action through international agencies for either economic or other purposes will sooner or later call for international taxation.

A recent international study, *The Tobin Tax* (OUP) suggests that provided the relevant governments agree, such a tax would be feasible. Foreign exchange turnover is now so great that even the lowest of tax would raise about \$150 billion a year.

On the assumption that the tax would be levied by the government of the territory in which the currency market operated, the UK would be the largest collector, as nearly a third of world currency turnover takes place in London.

The proposal that governments should keep a portion of the revenue they collect should make any British Chancellor's mouth water. If the UK kept 40 per cent of what it collected, it would get about £10 billion a year.

Such a tax, however, should be viewed as one possible contribution to a more stable regime, not as a solution on its own. The most powerful agent to counter potential speculation must be to provide that once rates were agreed, international action to support them should come into action automatically. This would require a fundamental change in the philosophy and rules of the IMF.

Gordon Brown could well take the lead in initiating informal talks between American, Japanese and European representatives to explore such reforms, which might also include the rationalisation of the now excessive number of international organisations in the economic field.

John Grieve Smith is author of *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed* (Macmillan).

French firms play waiting game as Left prepares business plan

Adam Sage and Oliver August on the threat to France's privatisations

As an unusually cheerful Lionel Jospin accepted his nomination as French Prime Minister yesterday, the markets responded with perplexity to the Left's victory in France's parliamentary election.

The shock that greeted the Socialists' unforeseen triumph in the first round of the election on May 25 has given way to questions over the future of French industry.

M Jospin says the wide-ranging privatisation programme envisaged by President Chirac's centre-right coalition will be scrapped.

France Telecom, Thomson-CSF, the new group that will be formed from the merger of Dassault and Aérospatiale, and Air France are among the companies whose sale into the private sector has been stopped by the election result.

But traders say the fate of these firms remains undecided. Torn between ideology and pragmatism, the Socialists could either return to their dirigiste traditions or recognise the need to modernise French business, analysts say.

In the short term, M Jospin will cancel planned sell-offs as he underlines France's swing to the left. Yet in the medium term, some traders believe he might end up accepting the full or partial privatisation of state-owned groups. Others point out that he will be unable to govern without the support of the unreconstructed French communists, who are resolutely opposed to any form of privatisation.

The reaction of French stock traders illustrated the uncertainty generated by Sunday's result. "No one really knows what to think about this," said a trader. "The stock exchange is not happy but it's not too nervous. We are waiting to see whether M Jospin gives important Cabinet posts to the Communists and what his programme for government



France Telecom employees, who demonstrated against privatisation, will have been cheered by the election result

will be." This sort of phlegmatism was not in evidence, however, at those companies earmarked for privatisation, and notably Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics group whose share plummeted yesterday.

M Jospin says he wants to maintain "public control over the defence industry", effectively ruling out the planned sale of Thomson-CSF to either Alcatel Alsthom or the Lagardere Group.

Both British Aerospace, which backed Lagardere's bid with £300m, and GEC, which planned to combine its defence electronics business with whoever took control of Thomson-CSF, will need to rethink their European strategies.

Bae will be affected by M Jospin's refusal to contemplate the privatisation of the new Dassault-Aérospatiale group. The sell-off would have paved the way for changes at Europe's Airbus consortium, in which Bae and Aérospatiale are partners.

The sale is likely to be halted, and plans to overhaul the French defence industry could unravel. Serge Dassault, the chairman of Dassault, had accepted the merger on condition that Aérospatiale would be sold into the private sector.

Now, he will be tempted to turn his back on the shake-up. For Airbus, the electoral sea change comes at the worst possible time.

The details of the conversion to a single corporate entity are currently being hammered out. France has been fighting a rear-guard action against its British and German partners

of competing with Boeing, its main US rival.

Bae and Dasa, the German Airbus partner, will continue to lobby for all assets to be transferred to the new joint company. But plans for transatlantic link-ups will become ever more realistic, ending the dream of a united European defence sector. Lockheed Mar-

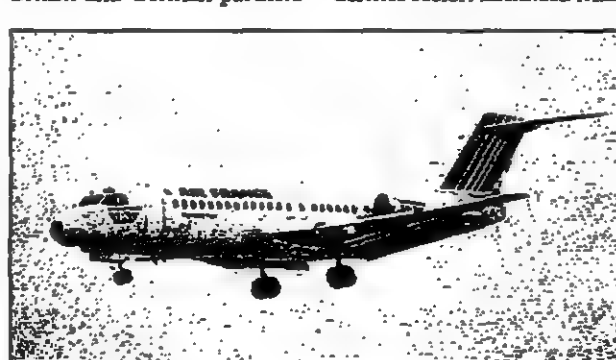
experience of dealing with French Socialist leaders.

Industry insiders bravely maintain that nothing is lost yet. Talk is of "flying holding patterns". They suggest that the new Government will be just as keen as the last to fill its coffers with easy privatisation cash—not least to stay within the Maastricht criteria for budget deficits.

And indeed, behind M Jospin's apparent intransigence, Socialist leaders have tempered their hostility to the private sector. In an interview last month, Francois Hollande, the Socialist's spokesman, spoke of the need for pragmatism and suggested some privatisations may go ahead.

Thomson's troubled consumer electronics arm, Thomson Multimedia, for example, might be sold off if a buyer can be found. Socialist leaders indicate. Some Socialists have also hinted they may accept the stock exchange flotation of a minority stake in Thomson-CSF.

Similar clouds hang over the future of France Telecom and Air France. M Jospin says he will stop this month's planned sale of France Telecom and the privatisation of the state-owned airline next



Air France proposals for a sell-off have been grounded

to keep the French Airbus factories in French hands.

The new Socialist Government is likely to support this initiative even more vigorously than its predecessor, not least because French jobs are on the line.

But analysts say such a move would cripple the consortium and render it incapable

of competing with Boeing, the US defence group and Boeing's opponent, would only be too happy to formalise its existing European ties.

A lot of lobbying will also have to be done by GEC. Its independent bid for Thomson-CSF earlier this year cannot have made it very popular in France. The bid was brusquely rejected. But GEC has some

Express deals

A BUILDING that has already seen more than its share of awful deeds may shortly echo to the baying of City dealers for the first time. Planning approval has been received for the old *Daily Express* building on Fleet Street, including two 3,000 sq m dealing floors. The building has entered journalistic lore as the Black Lubianka and is now little more than the historic black tile frontage.

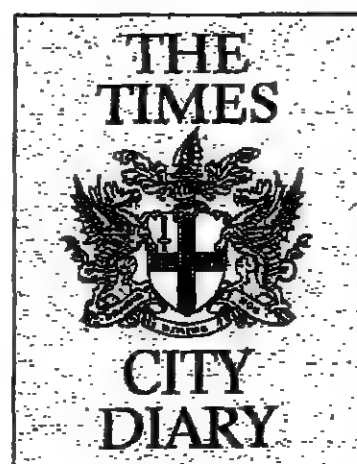
The site is indirectly owned by Itochu Corporation, a Japanese conglomerate, which is already talking

to potential occupiers, including a couple of financial businesses. "If we don't do a deal, we'll build it out speculatively—the feedback at the moment is that before too long we'll have a tenancy in place anyway," says a man in the hard hat. One of the Americans would be my bet—Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan are hard by, and it certainly beats Canary Wharf.

BOB MURRAY, chairman of the recently relegated Sunderland Football Club, is a man who keeps a firm grip on his wallet. In yesterday's deal to buy Lee Clark, the Newcastle United mid-fielder, Sunderland is paying £2.5 million up front, £300,000 if the club is promoted back into the Premiership and another £200,000 if Sunderland qualifies for a European competition. As it is 25 years, I am told, since Sunderland last played in Europe, Murray is not taking any risks with his cash.

Sick leave

HORRIBLE tales of fear, degradation and despair at the London offices of Bloomberg News, the financial wire service. Normal sort of day there, employees and former employees will assume, but this is worse



than usual. Raymond Goff, a respected editor, is on "sick leave" after a public dressing-down by Matthew Winkler, editor-in-chief of Bloomberg. Winkler is a co-founder along with the tireless Michael Bloomberg and provider of "invaluable help" towards the latter's recently published autobiography. He is also apparently one of those bosses who believe that creative tension makes the world go around, or at least old relationships with subordinates. Goff was given a public humiliation over a story from a Turkish stringer and told, along with most of the rest of the organisation, I gather, that he was unfit to edit any longer. Callers to Goff's extension receive his voice mail; ask about his whereabouts, and you go directly through

to Paul Sillitoe, bureau chief in London. "All I can say is that he's on sick leave," he says.

Retro rebel

HOWARD HODGSON, the one-time funeral parlour tycoon, was saving his former employer's blushes last night and staying well clear of the Benson & Hedges shop on Old Bond Street. He was supposed to be launching a £15 million advertising campaign for Ronson's new range of watches—Rebel, Racer and Retro. Until Hodgson, whose hairstyle might once have labelled him a Rebel but now looks distinctly Retro—was kicked out of Ronson. The show, somehow, went on without him.

INVESTORS rush to jump on the Halifax bandwagon, burles an ill-written hand-out. It's not only Halifax shareholders who are rushing to make the most of the building societies' (sic) flotation. It then goes on to push a certain personal finance product, suggesting Halifax members in their droves are using their proceeds to buy it. Which shows that someone else is also no slouch at bandwagon-jumping. And no, I am not going to name the product.

Health regime

GERALD RATNER'S venture into the exercise business, with one of

those awful fitness centres opening next month in Henley-upon-Thames, has reunited him with an old friend, I learn. Throwing his lot in with the venture is Gary O'Brien, former finance director of Ratners.

Ratner, who quit in November 1992 after those unfortunate remarks at the Institute of Directors, plans to install everything a wealthy Henleyite could need to work off a meal at Le Manoir just along the river. O'Brien left Signet and then had an unfortunate spell with Stephen Hinchliffe, the controversial financier, on the board of his crashed Facia fashion chain.

MARTIN WALLER



A fitness venture will reunite Gerald Ratner with an old friend

WHOEVER SAID GENIUS WAS ITS OWN REWARD NEEDED A GOOD LAWYER

patent n. 1 person commonly found in hospital (sic) or infirmary (sic) 2 extremely obvious 3 a right or title esp. to make, use or sell some invention.

trade mark n. 1 small expensive symbol knitted onto polo shirts etc (often foll. by *Far East copies*) 2 a device, word or words established to represent a company, product etc.

counterfeit n. 1 anger caused by having more than 8 items in basket (ref. supermarket) 2 made in imitation; not genuine 3 (of a claimant etc.) pretended.

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Source: FT Information



FESTIVAL

From a moving monologue about the oppression of the Aborigines...



FESTIVAL

...to a Chinese view of the great Outback: Lift presents the best of new Australian drama

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 1

Riccardo Chailly is our Building a Library choice of recording for Brahms's Second Symphony



MUSIC 2

André Previn launches a scintillating Ravel series with the LSO at the Barbican

A Lift to Down Under

Richard Morrison previews a bold Australian invasion of the London International Festival of Theatre

Crocodile Dundee, barbies, tinnies, surfers, snaps, Kylie, Edna... ask most of us to free-associate on the word "Australia" and the old clichés would surely come tumbling out. Then, perhaps, we might push our geo-cultural memory banks really hard and come up with *Shine*, *Tap Dogs*, Baz Luhrmann, and great chardonnays from unlikely creeks in New South Wales.

And after that? Well, the global village may be shrinking, but in cultural terms Britain and Australia can rarely have been further apart. Today we define ourselves within Europe, while they are increasingly preoccupied by Pacific Asia. Fewer and fewer Australians have family ties with Britain, and the old allegiances to Commonwealth and Crown are moving inexorably into the realms of the surreal.

True, our trading and sporting links remain, and a shared language (more or less) allows a brisk two-way bombardment of dull television programmes. But no longer do their big hopes and fears coincide with ours.

Against this background Britain and Australia have embarked on the biggest cultural exchange in their histories. Called *New Images*, it was initiated by the British Council to celebrate its 50th anniversary in Australia, and brings

more than 150 British-themed events to all six states.

In return, the Australia Council this week launches a £150,000 project to give Britain a hefty dose of Australian culture. But this is no parade of famous names and safe programmes. Rather, the Australians, with commendable frankness, are presenting a series of unusually critical "state of the nation" portraits.

Three are staged this month at the London International Festival of Theatre (Lift), and each paints Australia as a place of confused identity, lingering colonial resentments and unrequited racial differences. Some countries might shrink from giving an official platform overseas to such a downbeat image; it would be surprising, for instance, if the British Council presented a foreign festival with three plays all dealing with Ulster's history from the Irish republican point of view. But race has become the hot political potato in Australia at present. For many writers — whether in theatre or newspapers — it's the only subject in town.

Aboriginal groups, and many white Australians, are agitating for past wrongs to be put right: the theft of land; the high incidence of Aboriginal males dying in police custody (the subject of a highly critical royal commission scrutiny); and the "stolen children" scandal. Meanwhile, Asian Australians are fearful of a



William Yang's autobiographical monologue and slide-show. *The North*: a haunting parable about all migrations, all minorities, all ghettos

virulent new strain of racist redneck politics which seeks to blame non-white immigrants for rising unemployment.

The fact that all three London-bound plays comment on these volatile matters with dignity and wit rather than agitprop polemic is perhaps the best indication that Australia's sense of fair play will triumph over intolerance. Nevertheless, there can be no doubting the serious intent of these warning messages, particularly in *The 7 Stages of Grieving* by the Aboriginal company Kooemba Jdarra.

Here, an Aboriginal "everywoman" recalls a 210-year history of conquest and oppression in a series of monologues, while a big block of ice slowly melts, dripping frozen tears onto a pile of red earth. The symbolism is not too impenetrable. "When you get bitterness within a whole community, people can't find emotional fulfilment," says Wesley Enoch, Kooemba Jdarra's director.

The group's style is to mix ancient rituals in this play, for instance, the hiding of all images of a dead person) with very new subject-matter. "We presented a children's show about young Aborigines being taken away from their families quite some time before last week's stolen-children report," Enoch says. "And *The 7 Stages* came out of the death in police custody of one of our young dancers."

Despite this grim background, Enoch is cautiously hopeful. "Back in 1988 Australia thought that the bicentenary of our conquest was something to celebrate. In-

stead it became an interrogation of our national identity. Out of that, good came. Thirty years ago, my father couldn't even vote. There has been progress."

William Yang's *The North* is another monologue, but very different in tone: understated, delicately evocative, dryly humorous. Yang is Chinese Australian. His family came to north Queensland in one of the late 19th-century gold rushes. A society photographer by trade, he was inspired by Spalding Gray to start stringing together his images into sophisticated slide-shows with spoken commentaries, and won national fame with *Sadness* — a journey through bereavement, as AIDS hit the Sydney gay scene.

In *The North* he revisits the dry, stunted small-town Queensland of his own childhood, and also the China of his ancestors, in an attempt to "redefine what it is to be an Australian". That may sound desperately parochial for British audiences, but such is the beguiling humour of Yang's

words, and so artful are his photographs, that *The North* becomes a haunting parable about all migrations, all minorities, all ghettos. It could as easily be about the Asians in Bradford. And it has a remarkable musical score: a small Aussie invasion of the Wigmore Hall in October.

Nevertheless, with the Aboriginal dance group Bangarra coming to the Edinburgh Festival, and Aboriginal painting heavily featured in an Australian art show at MOMA in Oxford this summer, Australia seems intent on starting us with a "new image" that is defiantly non-British in its cultural references. Get used to it. We shall be hearing a lot more from this highly articulate, increasingly politicised "Black Australia" in the build-up to the Sydney Olympics.

Not all the events in *New Images* are anguished dissertations on Australian identity. There is, for instance, unlikely to be much post-colonial angst when the stirring young bloods of the Australian Chamber Orchestra lead a small Aussie invasion of the Wigmore Hall in October.

Nevertheless, with the Aboriginal dance group Bangarra coming to the Edinburgh Festival, and Aboriginal painting heavily featured in an Australian art show at MOMA in Oxford this summer, Australia seems intent on starting us with a "new image" that is defiantly non-British in its cultural references. Get used to it. We shall be hearing a lot more from this highly articulate, increasingly politicised "Black Australia" in the build-up to the Sydney Olympics.

● *The Geography of Haunted Places* is at the Royal Court, Uppercourt, from tonight to Sunday. *The 7 Stages of Grieving* is at BAC from Thursday to June 15. *The North* is at BAC from June 15 to 23. Lift booking: 0171-312 1995

Time to unravel Ravel

CONCERT

LSO/Previn
Barbican

THE London Symphony Orchestra's mini-series of four Ravel concerts, all with André Previn, is inspired programming. Too often themes seem to be adopted for thematic sake, but Ravel is a composer in need of this kind of concentrated treatment, one who otherwise tends to be taken for granted or played as a make-weight to something else. And few conductors have Previn's natural feel for Ravel's bewitching melodiousness or brilliant orchestration.

Ravel: *Through the Looking-Glass*, as the series is called, promises many varied reflections, but just how much of the enigmatic figure it will reveal remains to be heard. Already in the first concert we heard three very different aspects of Ravel, with the three works sharing only a certain emotional objectivity.

Ravel the miniaturist was represented by the *Mother Goose* ballet, happily given complete. Perhaps it is his part-Swiss ancestry that has led to the composer being belittled as a "watchmaker", but the precision in *Mother Goose* shows gigantic imagination, and light orchestration is used to conjure up astonishingly rich effects. Previn also hinted at the sensuousness hidden underneath the innocent surface: after an uncharacteristically tenuous start from the orchestra he drew refined performances.

There is much less to *Tzigane*, a virtuoso rhapsody for violin and orchestra full of rather generic-sounding "gypsy" music. Everything depends on the soloist pulling off the tricks, and Eunice Lee managed most of them: she dug into the unaccompanied opening soulfully, and was teasing and finally fierce in the bravura main section.

Bigger-scale Ravel, in every sense, was heard after the interval in the two suites from *Daphnis et Chloé*. Something intangible "clicked" between the orchestra and its conductor laureate here, resulting in a sumptuous but never self-indulgent account of the composer's greatest score.

JOHN ALLISON

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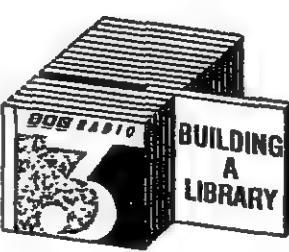
CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings,
presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BRAMHMS'S SYMPHONY No 2
Reviewed by Anthony Burton
PARTLY no doubt because of this year's centenary of Brahms's death, there is no shortage of recordings of his symphonies in the current catalogue. But among the 58 available versions of the Second Symphony, the sunniest and most relaxed of the four, there are few which I can wholeheartedly recommend.

The main problems presented by the work are to do with tempo: the speed to be set in each movement, and in particular the extent to which this should be varied — something for which Brahms gives very few specific instructions. Excessive changes of tempo can sound forced or inorganic: a charge which can be levelled even at such celebrated recordings as those of Claudio Abbado, Gunter Wand, George Szell and Bruno Walter: and indeed, for all his research into 19th-century performance practice, that of Roger Norrington.

The choice of recommended recordings is widest among the mid-price reissues. Herbert von Karajan's 1977 Berlin recording on Deutsche Grammophon is the most satisfying of his currently available performances, though its super-smooth phrasing tends to clog the orchestral textures. In contrast, Otto Klemperer's 1956 Philharmonia recording on EMI is angular in phrasing, and its orchestral sound unimproving; but it has great strength and integrity.



However, these and several other fine mid-price issues are eclipsed by Leonard Bernstein's 1982 live recording with the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra (Deutsche Grammophon). This can be criticised for many details, but it is a performance of passionate, desperate conviction.

As for my overall recommendation, there is some superb playing by the Saito Kinen Orchestra, very well recorded by Philips; but Seiji Ozawa's interpretation loses momentum in a disappointing finale. Kurt Masur also draws playing of outstanding tonal refinement from the New York Philharmonic, matched by Teldec's airy recording; again the finale is the problem — it is a little uneven and prosaic.

Best of all is Riccardo Chailly with the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra (Decca 430 324-2, £14.99). This has excellent orchestral playing and recording: the first movement, faster than most, seems to be perfectly paced; the middle movements are phrased with great affection; and the finale ends in a brilliant, but unforced, blaze of excitement.

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO881, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk
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■ VISUAL ART 1
Kitaj's parting shot at his critics enlivens a dull Royal Academy Summer Exhibition



■ VISUAL ART 2
... while work by China's leading painter, Chen Yifei, is shown in Britain for the first time

THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3
At the ICA Darren Almond attempts to capture the atmosphere of Pentonville



■ VISUAL ART 4
Drawings and sculpture from southern Africa and Nigeria go on show at the Brunei Gallery

VISUAL ART: The Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition; a Chinese painter's London debut; plus galleries

Tears rain on the summer parade

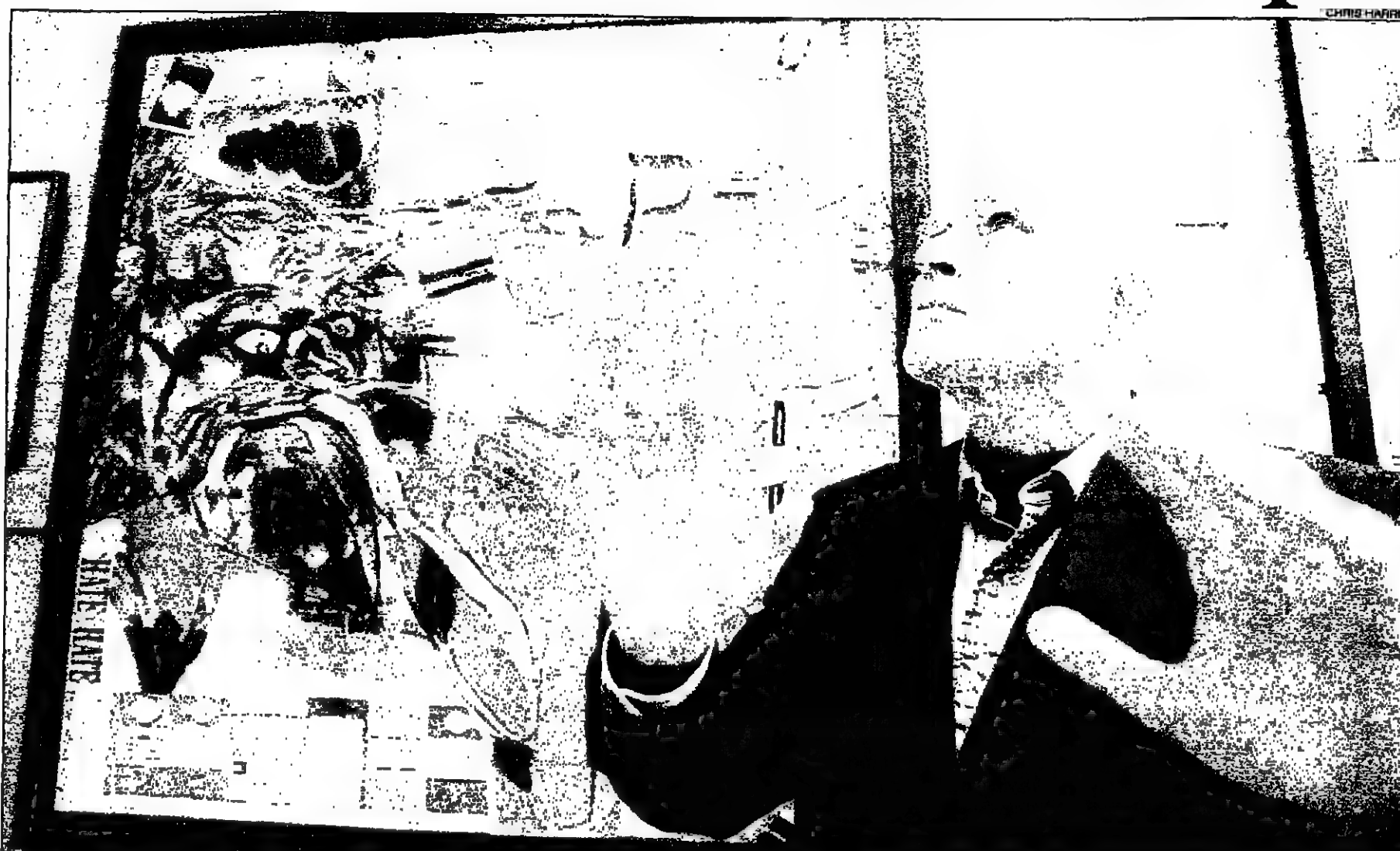
Richard Cork on a crammed RA show dominated by R.B. Kitaj

The moment you enter the Royal Academy's latest Summer Exhibition, R.B. Kitaj's *Leon-like* howl of rage resounds from a distant wall. A deeply embittered farewell from an artist who is abandoning England for California, his fusillade of paintings, drawings, prints, photographs and books is aimed at members of my profession. For Kitaj was mortified by the critical savaging his Tate retrospective suffered, and he blames hostile reviewers for the tragic death of his wife Sandra Fisher soon afterwards. Far from tending his wounds in private, he here takes a very public and gory revenge.

At the centre of his wailing wall, a macabre killing is enacted. Based on Manet's *Execution of the Emperor Maximilian*, Kitaj's hectic painting shows a bearded rifleman firing at a grotesquely bloated head spattered with blood, bile and dead wasps. The executioner resembles Manet himself, whose portrait by Degas hangs near by. But he is clearly a stand-in for Kitaj, and on the butt of his weapon Dylan Thomas's impassioned elegy ("Do not go gentle") proclaims his commitment to an angry grief. Peppering with bullets, the multi-eyed gorgon spews a rancid stream from its repellent mouth. And just in case anyone remains uncertain of the monster's identity, Kitaj has inscribed its vomit with a murderous chant: "yellowpressyellowpress-killkillkill".

While I found much to admire in his Tate retrospective, critics have a right to express even the most blifflous opinions. Kitaj would have been far better advised to ignore his detractors, and I am saddened that his wife's sudden death drove him to adopt such overheated tactics.

What I do support, though, is Kitaj's decision to fill the rest of the room with the work of his friends. He was responsible for calling them the School of London, and his old wicked humour resurfaces when he explains that "I have invited a few of the Over-The-Hill Gang to join me... because I believe in a geriatric avant-garde".



R.B. Kitaj and the centrepiece of his anti-critics "wailing wall" at the Royal Academy: the artist believes that hostile reviews of his Tate retrospective led to his wife's death

Some have never shown at the RA's summer jamboree before, and their contributions stand out. Lucian Freud's drawing of a bare-chested Francis Bacon is wittily incisive, while Leon Kossoff's swimming-pool drawing pulses with a fierce, exuberant energy. The most moving picture, though, is Frank Auerbach's portrait of Sandra. His brushmarks decisively summarise her gaunt face, but the features seem to be disintegrating as well, and the pallor of her flesh already appears sepulchral.

What does the rest of the exhibition look like, in its 229th year? Since nearly 3,000 works were sold in last summer's show, and more than 120,000 people visited it, this

annual ritual clearly enjoys huge esteem in some quarters. But I cannot pretend to have enjoyed the latest instalment. Quite simply, an embarrassment of inferior entries is put on display, and the sheer visual congestion threatens to smother the impact of the finest individual images.

Take the opening room, where a deserved memorial tribute is paid to William Gear. His recent death deprived British art of a pioneer abstractionist, and the seven canvases on view ought to have celebrated his robust, sensuous panache. But they are all crammed together in a cluster so tight-packed that the homage seems nothing more than a token gesture.

Proper space has been found, elsewhere in the room, for a bold, raw painting by Anselm Kiefer scattered with a swarming mass of sunflower seeds. And on the opposite wall, Prunella Clough's quieter *False Flower*, where a shimmering yet sickly growth rises from a grey urban structure, is allowed to make an impact.

Nobody could accuse John Hoyland of reticence. His pigment-smeared painting-boots feature on the poster for this year's show, and in the largest gallery Hoyland's titanic canvas *Story from Nature* proves that he has lost none of his life-affirming exuberance. Looking round the room, I realised that an exhibitor offered a vision that escapes from the prevailing bland-

ness. Carol Weight, an octogenarian obsessive, can always be relied on to provide a haunted corrective. His *Going Home, Evening* is charged with an authentic sense of isolation and agoraphobic dread. Josef Herman is another senior painter with a dark, brooding imagination, and his powerful back view of a woman at dusk has a welcome economy.

Anthony Green, on the other hand, stands out through the strength of his steadfast optimism and love. His paintings look as if they have exploded into a series of quirkily shaped fragments. One even has a fissure running through its centre, but the rift does not impair his matrimonial devotion to

the woman sleeping on the bed. Grey-bearded and slippers, he busies himself with teacups in his crumpled pyjamas. The aerial perspective adds a feeling of vertigo, but Green's attachment to conjugal life is unwavering.

Although Green heaps each little painting with minutiae, he still manages to preserve vivacity. But most of the artists who stand out here understand the value of ruthlessness. Roy Odade, who fully deserves his £10,000 Korn/Ferry Award, knows just how to eliminate essentials. Glimpses of earlier versions can still be detected beneath the final layers of paint in his *Sitting-Up*. But the woman on the bed has been reduced to a few tensely brushed contours. At once vulnerable and resilient, her figure is contrasted with the thick, luscious white paint spread sparsely across the pillow and sheet.

Sadly, the Academy's recent fire means that its architectural models and drawings are excluded. They will be shown instead at the Architectural Foundation (opening on Sunday), but I hope their banishment is a temporary affair. Artists and architects are too divorced from each other, and their presence together at Burlington House is an annual affirmation that the alliance between them should be expanded.

So should the display of sculpture. In the past, the superabundance of painters has threatened to squeeze sculptors out. They are still not visible enough, and bronzes as feeble as Bernard Sindall's titillating *Daisy Sitting on a Wall* are given far too much prominence. Even so, Philip King's two ceramic pieces look impressive in the room they dominate. His ability to play with variations on the theme of a vessel seems inexhaustible. The tall *Pitcher and Cup* is erect, vigilant and phallic, while a smaller work called *The Watcher* is a more restless, tilting affair, alive with unexpected Baroque protruberances.

Tony Cragg's *Early Form* proves that an outstanding younger generation of sculptors is now welcome at the Academy as well. Whirling with contained energy, this gleaming presence testifies to the strength of contemporary British art, and returns at the same time to the very origins of sculptural expression.

● The Summer Exhibition is at the Royal Academy (0171-439 7438) until August 17

Shanghaied by paint

What should a Chinese artist look like nowadays? Chen Yifei, at 51 the most successful living artist in China, ought to provide a useful index — but he might more readily be taken for a bank manager. An extremely cheerful, jolly bank manager, but all the same the neatly suited exterior hardly suggests artistic obsessions blazing beneath. Appearances, however, are deceptive: talk to him for a few minutes, and you encounter instead a fanatical perfectionist determined to express his vision in art.

It has been a long road to his present international fame, which takes him to the Venice Biennale later this month and to his debut British exhibition at Marlborough Fine Art this week. Born in Ningbo and brought up in Shanghai, Chen had many advantages. His father was a successful chemical engineer, his mother a former Roman Catholic nun, and the family was well-off, cultivated and unusually in touch with Western art and thought. When Chen showed precocious artistic talent, they were happy

John Russell Taylor meets China's greatest living artist

to go along with it, and he found further support with the Communist Youth Pioneers at his school. At 14 he entered the Shanghai High School for Art, where he received a comprehensive training in Western art technique: most of the teachers had passed their formative years in Paris, the prewar mecca of Chinese artists, and China's close cultural connections with Russia in the early days of Communist government also encouraged Western-style realism in painting. The onset of the Cultural Revolution in 1966 complicated life, but did not fundamentally change China's artistic direction.

That, says Chen, was because, while in every other art Western influence was roundly condemned, in painting native Chinese techniques were not suitable for the

heroic, monumental approach the Government required to propagate Mao's image. And so, although Chen's parents, as "intellectuals", were constantly under threat of exile to work camps and he himself was periodically sent off to work in the fields, he was also frequently summoned to Beijing to produce imposing official portraits and heroic set-pieces. "There was no alternative if you wanted to go on painting. And I was just passionate about painting. Every subject has its uses in the perfecting of technique. Cézanne did not have to love a specific apple in order to paint it; I did not have to love Mao."

By the time the Cultural Revolution passed, in the mid-1970s, Chen had become leading artist of the Shanghai Institute of Painting, had married and become a father, had won a variety of prizes, and had achieved access to Western art magazines which were denied to the vast majority in China. One thing was clear to him: if he was to grow as an artist, he had to go to the West.

In 1980, obtaining a noni-



Morning on the Long Canal (1995) by Chen Yifei

mal sponsorship from members of his extended family in New York, he managed to get there with just \$38 in his pocket. "I didn't care. I decided that if I just had time enough in New York to get myself to the Metropolitan Museum for a day, the trip would have been worthwhile." He obtained a scholarship to Hunter College, and got work in New York as a picture restorer. One day,

passing the Armand Hammer Gallery, he was tempted in, showed them his work, and was commissioned by Hammer himself to paint for a one-man show in 1983. Though he made occasional return visits to China, he remained based in New York for the next decade. His growing success included a commission from the United Nations and the presentation of his painting, *Memory of*

Homeland — Double Bridge, to Deng Xiaoping as a personal gift from Armand Hammer. In 1988 Chen made his first visit to Tibet, which has subsequently become a constant theme in his work, and in 1990 he moved back to Shanghai. He feels that his time living in the West has made his art richer and more complex: he now paints with a heavier impasto, in a more "painterly" fashion. Since childhood he has also been fascinated by the cinema, and in 1993 made an autobiographical feature documentary, *Old Dreams on the Sea*, and a fictional feature, a love story called *Evening Liaison*, which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival in 1995. He raised the money for those from his painting, but now he is involved in a more expensive project. "I made last year the first part, which is a documentary about Jewish refugees in Shanghai. Now I have to go to the money-men to finance the second, which is a fiction on the same subject. It needs cast. So what else can I do? Observing the glint in Chen's eye, the outcome is not in doubt."

● Chen Yifei, Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Alchemie Street, W1 0171-629 5161 from Thur to July 19

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IT SEEMS that Siobhan Hapaska works with two different languages. The shiny, abstract, off-centre, off-beat, and logical space-age objects with highly polished pearled surfaces, which seem to be a motto for her sculptural activity, are accompanied in every exhibition by the odd funny figurative element, which is probably intended to act as a disclaimer. Three of the more formal shiny wall-mounted pieces make their way across the gallery at Ennville, while in the centre of the gallery a piece of genuine tumbledraw ranges from side to side on electrified tracks. Downstairs the light catches the surface of a glistening slippery formlessness trapped, literally, in wooden stocks.

□ FILM projected onto an enormous screen stretches across the far wall in the darkened upstairs Nash gallery at the ICA to convey a claustrophobic scene. The interior of a prison cell shows two bunks, one with furniture stacked on top. A continuous humdrum sound is also playing. Darren Almond's idea could be good but atmosphere is lacking. On opening night

the clunk, click, echoing shouts and jangling of keys were played for real in a live link set up between Pentonville prison and the gallery. Now we just have a recording and that notion of a direct line of communication becomes merely suggestive.

ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (0171-430 3647) until June 13
□ IMAGE AND FORM at Brunei Gallery is an interesting exhibition of prints, drawings and sculpture from southern Africa and Nigeria. The crowded show ranges across traditional celebrations of national identity at the time of Nigeria's independence, through prints which were a form of common currency under apartheid in South Africa, to bright dreamy lithographs by the Kuru Group, a collective of gatherers in Botswana. The drawings by Marlene Dumas, a South African who now lives in Holland, provide a key to the best aspects of this exhibition. She manages to make a figure exist, quite simply, through drawing. Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, Russell Square, London WC1 (0171-637 3388) until July 25

SACHA CRADDOCK

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CHOICE 1

Lift-off: Joshua Sobol's play, *K'Far* (The Village), opens in Hammersmith

VENUE: From tonight at the Lyric Theatre

CHOICE 2

A double bill of theatre includes *The Browning Version* by Terence Rattigan

VENUE: From tonight at the Everyman, Cheltenham

CHOICE 3

The Siobhan Davies Dance Company ends its spring tour in Sheffield

VENUE: Crucible Theatre, tonight and tomorrow

THEATRE

Aristophanes is turned into Glaswegian-style comedy as the Gate stages *The Birds*

THE TIMES ARTS

Feather-brained fun

Greek political satires written 2,500 years ago are always going to struggle for topicality — at least where mere mortals are concerned. There is a running joke in Aristophanes's *Archais* about a coal scuttler for centuries, but frankly, dedicating ten years of your education



Sylarks: Hamish Clark (left) and Robin Cameron walk away with the comedy as Athens acquires a Glasgow accent

The Birds Gate, WII

to getting the joke is hardly a laughing matter.

All power to Stephen Greenhorn's fist then for not deconstructing, but demolishing the tedious in-jokes in Aristophanes's *The Birds* to present a lively adaptation about the two Athenian opportunists who persuade a chorus of birds to impose a monopoly on transactions between the gods and plebs.

It is hardly a twit's fantasy, but frankly the play will always be a load of old birds about the use and abuse of democracy. Greenhorn has merely bested the best bits of Aristophanes — the vulgarity — into a Glaswegian-style comedy. Yes, the old bones of the play are still there, but here Peisetairos, a greedy Scottish demagogue, and his sidekick Eupolides, a shaggy-haired Proclaimers,

pitch up in birdland with an ingenious idea of how they can rule the planet. Set up a city in the sky — Skylandia — and tax everything in sight.

Winning over the birds, led by the stuttering Jay (Jim Wall) and the beaky Hoopoe (Tim Newton), is a victory of Robin Cameron's charm and battery over his feather-

brained recruits. In Gaynor Macfarlane's production, the actors wear beaks made of copper wire and hop around stage as if they are in a sack race. Their real job is to be persuaded by Peisetairos that they can be gods and they duly succumb like sheep. It's a lot of jolly stuffing at the expense of the birds, government inspectors, lawyers and immensely sick gods. But Cameron and Hamish Clark, as his unwilling lieutenant, walk away with the comedy.

TI Green's designs are the most original contribution. There is really not a lot more to this evening. The choruses are beautifully sung set-pieces — more Manhattan Transfer

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

POP: A country singer with soul and sincerity; plus a band with a migraine and an addiction

Tears with the beers

Dale Watson Borderline, WI

WITH his madman's looks, extravagantly tattooed upper lips and oaken-paned voice, Dale Watson is a country music star who belongs in a bygone era. Although the slim, 34-year-old singer and guitarist from Austin, Texas, writes most of his songs, his fundamentalist approach has placed him beyond the reach of mainstream country tastes in the 1990s. "I'm too country now for country, just like Johnny Cash," he sang on *Nashville Rhyth*, one of several points during his set when he rallied against the betrayal of "real" country ideals by the new American country establishment.

Unlike other western swing revivalists, such as BR5-49, there was no trace of irony or knowing smirk in Watson's music, let alone in his personality. A

Southern patriot, who has a "Friend Club" because "to call you fans seems so impersonal", he is the kind of character that Hank Wagoner has made a career out of lampooning.

But Watson is the real deal. When he thanked his "friends" for bottles of beer delivered to the stage, and played every request in a marathon stretch of encores, his sense of courtesy and sincerity were unimpeachable.

So, too, was his performance. Backed by a band that could turn on a pin, featuring John Jorgenson (guitar), Ricky Davis (pedal steel) and Preston Rumburg (upright bass and blissful harmony vocals), Watson cruised through a selection of numbers mostly taken from his three albums, all delivered in an easy conversational, yet richly burnished, tone that echoed such greats as Merle Haggard and Bob Wills.

"I hope heaven has a place for those of us that lost our way," he sang on the unusually soulful ballad, *Blessed Or Damned*, which, like most of the songs, he embellished with haunting touches of deep-throated guitar. For a moment you could almost hear the sound of tears hitting the beers in this cramped basement bar.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Needles and pains

Morphine Garage, NI

HAVING just returned from Egypt and suffering woefully from Cairo belly, I was really fit only for bed. Instead, as the band was called Morphine and the best of their four albums is entitled *Cure For Pain*, I set off in search of a quick fix.

Morphine are not high in the "feel-good" factor ratings. The American band's songs are of the life-is-a-misery school, inhabiting the dark alleys of dashed hopes and disappointed dreams. Their music is dense and claustrophobic, afraid of the daylight and without air-conditioning — setting a sombre mood perfectly complemented by this low-ceilinged black box of a venue.

So why make the effort? Because Morphine are addictively adventurous. Even their turn the

traditional rock trio format on its head by dispensing with guitar. With Mark Sandman playing two-string slide bass and Dana Colley growling menacingly on baritone sax, the only conventional element is Billy Conway's drumming.

The tone was set as they opened with *Like Swimming*, the title track of their latest album. Sandman sounds like a cross between Lou Reed and Tom Waits, the slide bass hits the pit of the stomach, Colley's baritone barks gruffly and the effect is cool and hypnotic not quite rock, blues, funk or jazz but a lo-fi adventure that is uniquely Morphine.

The songs are sparse and short, shot through with flashes of black humour. *Wishing Well* and *Swing It Low* are dark and poetic expressions of hopelessness. Much of the material came from the new album, but old favourites from *Cure For Pain* included *In Spite Of Me*, full of self-loathing, and *Alone*, which seems to encapsulate the Morphine world view in a doom-laden three minutes.

No, they didn't cure my pain. If anything they left me feeling worse. Yet I was still strangely glad to have made the effort to be there.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

LONDON

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED Choreographer Godden plays a professor of philosophy whose attempts at suicide are comically thwarted by visits from students and colleagues. Alan Bleasdale directs. Ben Brown's black comedy success from Scarborough.

K'FAR (THE VILLAGE) London International Festival of The Arts brings 24 companies over the next four weeks. *K'Far* (The Village) is an acclaimed play by Joshua Sobol (author of *Ghetto*) set in a 1940s State of Israel. Performed in Hebrew, with simultaneous translation into English. Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, W6 0LH. 0171 891 1111. Previews tonight 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow 7pm. Then Thurs-Sat 7.30pm. Until June 7.

TOSCA The new production of Puccini's opera, *Tosca*, is being performed at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, W6 0LH. 0171 891 1111. Previews tonight 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow 7.30pm. Then Thurs-Sat 7.30pm. Until June 7.

WITNESS At 7.30pm in St Paul's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF. *Witness* is a play by Caryl Phillips. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

ALWAYS Believe it or not, the thing that makes *Always* a musical is the fact that it is a musical. It's a play by Caryl Phillips. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

BEACH BLANKET BABYLON Long-running musical from San Francisco. *Beach Blanket Babylon* is a musical. It's a play by Caryl Phillips. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Disney's film turned into a hit Broadway musical. *Beauty and the Beast* is a musical. It's a play by Caryl Phillips. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

CLOSER In *Closer*, Michael C. Hall's new play, directed by Michael C. Hall. *Closer* is a play by Michael C. Hall. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

NEW RELEASES

ABSOLUTE POWER (16) The American President is involved in a murder, and the CIA is involved in a cover-up. *Absolute Power* is a film. It's a play by Michael C. Hall. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

THE SPITFIRE GIRL (12) Over-enthusiastic, with a bit of a head and a bit of a heart. *The Spitfire Girl* is a film. It's a play by Michael C. Hall. Tickets £10. Bookings 0171 491 1111.

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Few lawyers are truly happy about the trend towards ever-narrower specialisation, but this trend has been operating for many years and as law firms grow in size it will not doubt continue. Newly qualified solicitors complain about the need to choose an area of law immediately on qualifying, knowing full well that this choice will determine the course of their whole career. Ten years ago, we would advise them that they could always change specialisation as long as they decided to do so within the first year or two. This option is now more difficult. Employers look for specialist experience in candidates who are only one or two years qualified.

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Waging war on prejudice

Legislation alone will not halt racially motivated crime, says Gary Slapper

Britain has one of the highest rates of racially motivated crime in Western Europe, according to a recent report by the international organisation Human Rights Watch. The number of annual incidents has trebled over the past seven years, the three-year study shows.

At the same time, breaches of race relations law by employers proliferate, with the problem also reaching into schools, as the recent case of Hytham Hamad shows. Mr Hamad was awarded £4,000 in compensation against one of Britain's oldest public schools after it failed to deal with an appalling and virulent racist crusade against him by other pupils.

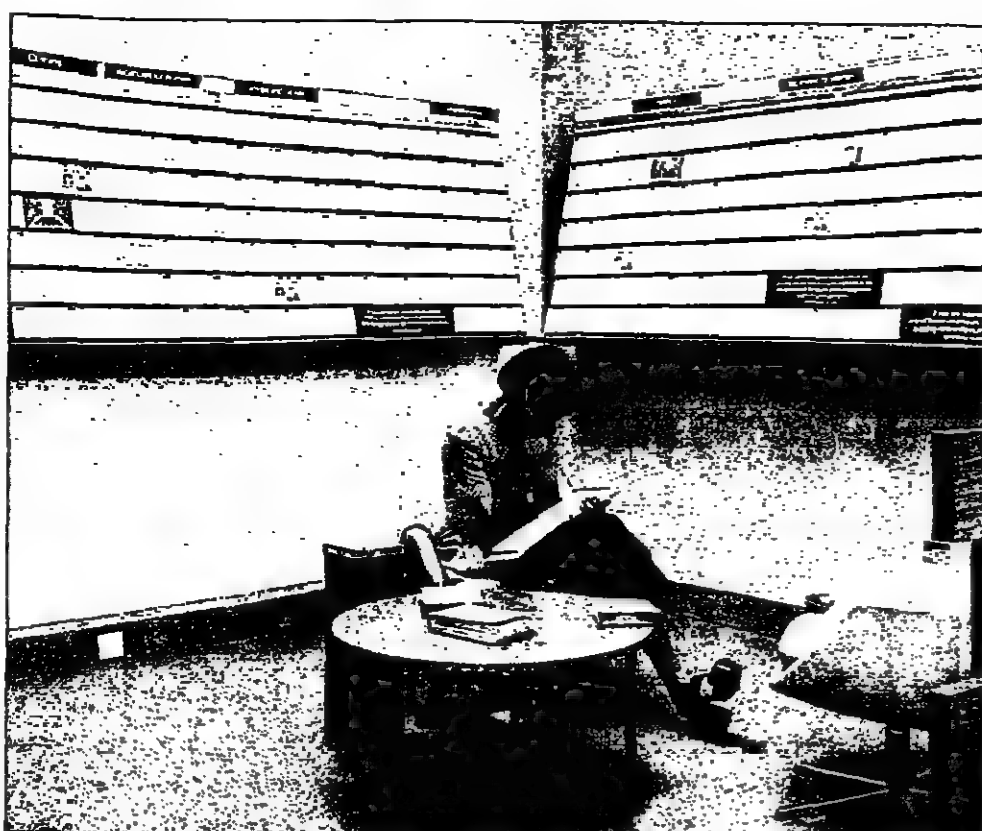
The Government is ready to act and has announced that it will use the Crime and Disorder Bill to legislate for new crimes of "racially harassment" and "racially motivated violence". But how effective can the law be in promoting enlightened attitudes?

The plethora of provisions outlawing racist behaviour already includes the Race Relations Act 1976, which makes it unlawful to discriminate racially, directly or indirectly, against people at work, or, as the Hamad case shows, in places such as schools. The Act has been strengthened by a recent Court of Appeal ruling.

Raymond Jones was frequently taunted with racist remarks and physically abused at the engineering factory in the Midlands where he worked.

In confirming that Mr Jones should receive £5,000 in compensation, Lord Justice Waite stated that narrow conceptions of the law, which would have exculpated the employer from the unauthorised acts of the workers, should be ignored.

The Race Relations Act's purpose was, he observed, to "deter



Looking for a job: black people may come up against subtle barriers, even after getting work

racial... harassment in the workplace by widening the net of responsibility beyond the guilty employees themselves by making all employers additionally liable, subject to a defence that they had taken all reasonable steps to stop the harassment.

Racist conduct can also be tackled with laws such as the Malicious Communications Act 1988 (where letters or other articles have been sent to cause distress or anxiety), and the Football (Offences) Act 1991, which deals with racist chanting at football matches. Councils can use local government legislation to deal with racist tenants: in the 12 months to May 1996, 33 councils in London took successful legal action against tenants who had racially harassed their neighbours. Sixteen councils won 16 possession orders and 47 injunctions.

It is also an offence under the Public Order Act 1986, punishable with up to six months' imprisonment, to use threatening, abusive or insulting words or conduct, or to distribute or display any writing, sign or

representation that is threatening, abusive or insulting. A related offence criminalised insulting or threatening or disorderly behaviour, or the use of signs within the sight or hearing of a person likely to cause harassment, alarm or

'Debate and schooling are likely to have more impact than new laws'

distress. The 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act added yet another offence to the list. This new crime, aimed chiefly at racist agitators, is the intentional causing of harassment, alarm or distress.

It does not, however, specifically mention race — an omission Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, wants to address.

There is also the Public Order Act, with its six offences covering those who commit acts — including possessing materials and presenting plays — that are likely to stir up racial hatred.

On top of all that, the current Code for Crown Prosecutors states that factors which will increase the likelihood of an incident resulting in prosecution include the offence of being "motivated by any form of discrimination against the victim's ethnic or national origin".

Despite all these laws, many people from ethnic minorities still face the major problem of the more transient but injurious incidence of racial harassment — defined by the Commission for Racial Equality as verbal or physical violence towards individuals or groups on grounds of colour, race, nationality or ethnic origin. It includes attacks on property as well as people.

The police have to keep records of any incidents where a racial motive is apparent. Based on a large-scale survey, the Home Office's British Crime Survey found 130,000 racially motivated incidents in 1991, of which 89,000 were

against Asians and 41,000 against people from black groups. These included 52,000 threats, 26,000 acts of vandalism and 32,000 assaults. It appears that such incidents are greatly under-reported or under-recorded by the police, whose records for 1995-96 show 12,222 racial incidents.

Just how far any new offence of racially motivated crime can act as a deterrent to racist thugs is open to question. What is clear is that in the time that this battery of civil and criminal racist offences has been created, the phenomenon has grown alarmingly. The Human Rights Watch report focuses not only on the thousands of assaults, but also on 14 racist murders committed between 1991 and 1994, and the deaths in custody of ten black people.

When laws first came in to curtail racist conduct, they were treated sceptically by the judiciary. Where there was any doubt about whether a provision applied, the personal freedom of racists to discriminate or insult prevailed.

In 1974, Anthony Sherrington had been refused a drink in a dockers' club in Preston, Lancashire, with the words "We do not serve coloured people". Mr Sherrington was an associate member of the club and the question was whether such members (there were about a million) were "a section of the public" that the law said could not be discriminated against. The House of Lords said they were not, ruling in favour of the racist club.

The attitude of the judiciary has progressed since then, with the previous Lord Chancellor reaffirming the need for judicial sensitivity on matters of race and religion, and cautioning trial judges who made racist remarks.

Judicial attitudes aside, fear within ethnic minorities remains. A recent survey for the Home Office found that 38 per cent of Asians were very worried about being the victims of racial attacks. Public debate and education are likely to have more of an impact than anything achievable by throwing more law at the problem.

Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

Edward Fennell predicts a boom in legal work

Road to riches if all goes to plan

What will the new Government do to housing and planning laws? As protesters prepare for a housing battle over plans for a proposed new town in the heart of Hampshire, the annual Cities International Conference comes to London this week. Seen by many as the most influential forum on urban management and development, it is a lawyers' honeypot and a prime talking point will be the effect on planning and development of the new Labour administration.

There is a consensus among top planning lawyers that Labour will bring a new pragmatism to planning decisions. Housing will be the big issue and according to Margaret Casely-Hayford of solicitors Denton Hall it will be "John Selwyn Gummer-with-realism".

The Denton Hall view, shared by many other leading planning lawyers, is that the previous Government's commitment to putting 75 per cent of new housing on brownfield sites is "unimplementable". Instead, if the target of 4.4 million houses is to be achieved, there is bound to be considerable pressure to go for greenfield sites.

This is where much of the work for planning lawyers will come from. Nicholas Taylor of the solicitors Berwin Leighton has been engaged for some time on the development of a new "city" at Ebbsfleet, part of the Thames Gateway in Kent. He emphasises the importance of Labour's requirements for the integration of jobs, transport, leisure and homes to achieve "sustainability".

However, he also expects that a number of conflicts will arise from this which will need to be sorted out by lawyers. In particular, the preference by Labour to leave more decision-making to local councils may lead to problems if councillors resist new proposals on "not in my backyard" principles.

David Cooper of Gouldens, rated as one of the top planning lawyers in London, says: "We're a nation of Nimbys and that's how I make my money." The built-in kneejerk reaction to any development constantly spawns new objections, and increases demands for lawyers' services. Mr Cooper is wondering whether the new masters of Whitehall will reduce the number of "call-ins" and whether they really will allow more

decisions to be taken locally. Typical of the kind of dilemma that is likely to arise concerns the development of wind power. David Goodman of the solicitors Hammond Suddards has developed a significant wind farm practice and has learnt that there tends to be huge opposition to this kind of development, benign as it may be as a renewable energy resource.

Clients such as National Windpower and PowerGen are interested in developing sites but the public and councils tend not to like them. Environmentally good but unpopular with some of the electors, wind farms embody the poison pill of future planning decisions which Labour must ingest.

Mr Goodman believes that transport too will remain a chronic problem. The need to ensure that when new settlements are developed they are properly served by road and rail links could mean that battles over new development will be even more protracted as councils fight developers not just over the new building but the infrastructure as well.

To deal with these cases he believes that action must be taken to reduce the length of the legal wrangles. "We need innovative solutions," he says. "For example, I would be interested in the creation of some kind of alternative dispute resolution system."

Meanwhile, there is still the legacy of the past to be dealt with. Nicholas Taylor at Berwin Leighton is waiting for a decision on the Birmingham northern relief road and there are also a number of out-of-town shopping centre proposals still in the pipeline.

All of these uncertainties are sure to be good for lawyers. Denton Hall has brought together its planners with its public law specialists to create an integrated team. This offers considerable potential given the increasing importance, for example, of public finance initiatives in the development of roads.

Stephen Ashworth of Denton Hall insists that lawyers must also act as business advisers to their clients in this field. The availability of structural funds and other sources of financial incentives means that lawyers can act as midwives to the schemes which might otherwise never get off the ground.



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The title of Professor will be conferred on a suitably qualified successful candidate who meets the University's criteria for such appointments.

Informal enquiries to Professor Peter Jones (Dean-Elect) on (0115) 9486874.

Further details and application forms are available from Personnel Services, The Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU, by telephoning (0115) 9486522 (24 hour answering service).

Please Post Ref No: L0220/TIM. Closing date: 18 June 1997.

For all vacancies see our Internet page <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/personnel>

CVs will only be accepted when submitted with a fully completed application form.

We are actively implementing equality of opportunity policies and seek people who share our commitment.



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The Role

Due to the group's continued expansion internationally, there is now an exciting opportunity for a senior Counsel to join the corporate HQ in Jeddah. Reporting to the Chairman, President and Group Managing Director, you will manage a small team and advise the group worldwide on a broad range of corporate, commercial, banking and finance issues.

The Person

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For further information on this outstanding opportunity, please contact Naveen Tuli or Laurence Simons personally.



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Senior In-House 6 month contract - min 5 years' experience	Ref 9834
Commercial Projects - 6 month contract - min 2 years' experience	Ref 0106
ISDA Negotiation	Ref 0129
Private/Trust Administration (ALEX)	Ref 9883
Property Finance - (ALEX WITH PROSPECTS)	Ref 9977

For further information on these vacancies and many others contact Carmel McCann, a recruitment consultant, on 0171-523 3828 or write to her at ZMB Contracts, 37 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Fax 0171-523 3829. E-mail: carmel@zmb.co.uk

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You will be a solicitor/barrister with at least two years' high quality experience since admission, best of all in IP or commercial contracts. You will be a clear, concise communicator, with the drive, acumen and interpersonal skills to contribute widely to the commercial management of the company.

This is a high profile role within Vertex, the leading business operations outsourcing company. Career prospects and remuneration are correspondingly excellent.

Please send a CV to Malcolm Hooper at Howgate Sable & Partners, Arkwright House, Parsonage Gardens, Manchester M3 2LF. Tel: 0161 839 2000, Fax: 0161 839 0064, quoting ref: T482E. Or alternatively apply through our web site at <http://www.topjobs.co.uk/howgate>

For more information on Vertex visit our web site at <http://www.vertex.co.uk>. Equal consideration will be given to all applicants irrespective of sex, race, creed or disability.

vertex

30 June 1997

THEATRE
Aristophanes is turned into Glaswegian-style comedy as the Gate stages *The Birds*

fun



...acquires a Glasgow...

...and an addition...

NIGEL WALLIS

...of this...

TSD Titmuss Sainer Dechert

HEAD OF BANKING

Our Banking Group is responsible for giving transactional support and advice to several well-known lenders, as well as borrowers, on a wide range of finance matters.

At Titmuss Sainer Dechert, as a result of our union with the US law firm Dechert Price & Rhoads, we enjoy all the benefits of:

- Working in a medium sized full service City firm.
- The support of over 500 lawyers in ten offices in the US and Europe.
- Doing high quality UK and international work.

Now we need someone to lead our Banking Group through its next stage of development. The ideal candidate will be a bright and ambitious senior assistant or young partner in an established banking practice, who is ready to take on the challenge of team management and practice development. Technical know-how, marketing flair and leadership skills are prerequisites.

QD If you want to find out more, please contact Greg Abrahams or Alison Jacobs in complete confidence on 0171 405 6062 (0171 731 5699 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

European Regulatory Lawyer

International Investment Bank

Goldman Sachs' reputation as one of the world's leading investment banking and securities firms is built upon the skills, creativity and dedication of our people. It is our goal to recruit the best person for every job.

Due to the continuing expansion of our activities in Europe and the fundamental changes in the regulation of financial services currently taking place across the EU, we now wish to make an additional London-based appointment in the Legal and Government Affairs Department.

We are seeking to recruit a lawyer to assist with co-ordination of European legal and regulatory monitoring and analysis covering both Brussels and EU member state developments relevant to all areas of the firm's business. You will report to the firm's General Counsel and work closely with the senior European regulatory legal adviser. Your principal responsibilities will include providing advice and information regarding European legal and regulatory developments; day-to-day monitoring/management of computerised survey, local counsel and other information sources; and assisting with European government affairs and lobbying work. In addition, you

will assist in handling legal/regulatory issues relating to the firm's European offices, particularly Milan and Paris.

Candidates with 3-5 years general commercial or financial experience in a leading law firm, or relevant experience within a major financial institution are preferred. Knowledge and experience of European law would be advantageous but not essential.

Compensation for the role will be competitive and will reflect our normal investment banking practice.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a covering letter and full curriculum vitae, to our Managing Consultants, Geraldine Hetherington or Nicola Ross, In-House Legal Recruitment Consultants, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk



QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

JUNIOR MEDIA 0-2 YEARS To £35,000 + Bens International media company in London seeks junior corporate commercial lawyer looking for a move into the media arena. The role will involve a range of commercial issues including IP, employment and specialist media contracts. You must be robust and outgoing with a desire to move into this environment. Ref: TC39980

IT/TELECOMS South East To £Excellent + Bens International media company with a bias on the telecommunications and IT side is sought by large telecoms company to handle contractual arrangements with customers and suppliers and to provide legal advice and support to the company across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Ideally looking between 3 and 7 years'. Excellent first in-house position. Ref: TC40077

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS To £50,000 + Bens Major performance management consulting company focusing on executive benefits and share schemes seeks a lawyer with this background with between 0 and 3 years' experience. Will look at barristers or solicitors who will need a strong general commercial background or tax and revenue law experience. No need to have had a great deal of employee benefits work. Must be willing to specialise in this area. Very good long term prospects. Ref: TC40044

SENIOR OIL & GAS Central London To £Excellent Oil and gas lawyer with between 4 and 7 years' experience gained either in private practice or in-house is sought by this major well known company to undertake a pivotal role within its legal team. Excellent and broad ranging background a must, together with an outgoing personality and a sense of humour. Ref: TC40409

FINANCIAL SERVICES To £75,000 + Bens Regulatory services division of leading investment management group seeks experienced financial services lawyer. The regulatory services division comprises legal, compliance, and company secretaries teams, which take a proactive co-ordinating role in the development of the group and its products. A great opportunity to provide legal and project management support to a high profile finance organisation. Ref: TC38207

EMPLOYMENT To £50,000 plus Bens Pivotal role for ambitious employment lawyer to join a major PLC in the engineering sector. As a member of the legal department you will specialise in non-contentious employment matters as well as other commercial matters. You must be proactive, confident and able to find solutions for your clients. This is an excellent opportunity to move in-house and continue to specialise in employment. Ref: TC39845

For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Meuric, Michelle McGregor or Sarah David (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-442 0841 or 0171-792 0475 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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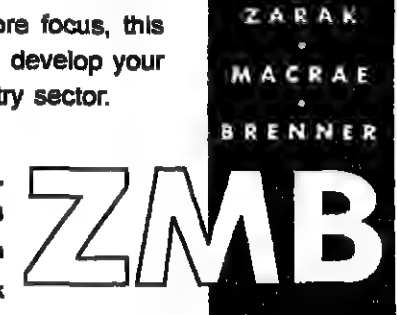
first class corporate lawyer to join the media revolution

Our media & communications department is a dynamic, multi-disciplinary team of company, commercial and litigation lawyers with extensive experience of the film, television, publishing, IT and communications industries. Our client base includes domestic and international terrestrial and satellite broadcasters, film and television production houses, publishers and information service providers.

We now have a key vacancy for a talented 3-5 year qualified corporate lawyer to join us. We are looking for first class corporate finance/M&A experience, technical excellence, natural interpersonal skills and a keen sense of commercial awareness. An interest in the media sector is necessary, but practical experience of it is not.

For outstanding corporate lawyers yearning to give their careers more focus, this represents a great opportunity. You will be given every opportunity to develop your career as a transactional lawyer at the forefront of this exciting industry sector.

For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants, Jonathan Brenner or Andrew Golding, on 0171-523 3838 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3838. E-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk



The Solicitor to the Departments of Health and Social Security
TRAINEE SOLICITORS

£14,407 - £15,791 (London)
£13,242 - £14,623 (National)



As a new initiative the Solicitor is offering a two year practical training courses for Trainee Solicitors (traineeships) starting September 1997. The training period is a fixed term appointment for two years. Exceptionally, subject to staffing needs and performance, successful candidates may be offered a permanent post but this is not guaranteed.

The Office of the Solicitor, part of the Department of Social Security, provides a comprehensive range of legal services to the Departments of Health and Social Security, and their executive agencies, on a nationwide basis. In addition to its principal office at New Court in central London, there are Area Legal Offices in Birmingham, Cardiff, Leeds, Liverpool, Newcastle, Stanmore and Sutton. There are likely to be four traineeships based in London (which for this purpose includes Stanmore and Sutton) and one each at Birmingham, Cardiff and Liverpool.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 24th June 1997), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Innovation Court, New Street, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 488551 (24 hours), or fax 01256 383786/383787. Please quote reference B3336

The DSS is an equal opportunities employer. We operate a guaranteed interview for people with disabilities

You will be provided with training and experience in a range of legal work. The topics will include in all cases civil litigation, criminal litigation and employment law. In relation to the traineeships based in London, additional topics will be commercial law, legislation and advice.

We are looking for people with intelligence and excellent communication skills. Although a healthy academic background is required, other factors such as good interpersonal skills and initiative are equally important.

You must hold at least an upper second class degree in any discipline, if you have pursued a course of full-time study, and you must expect to complete the Legal Practice Course in June 1997. You must satisfy certain nationality requirements.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENCED CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SOLICITORS

A & L Goodbody, Ireland's largest legal firm specialises in corporate and commercial law. Our caseload includes major national and international transactions. In support of our continued growth, we wish to make a number of new appointments in our London and Dublin offices.

These appointments are long-term career opportunities, likely to be of interest to ambitious and experienced corporate / commercial solicitors.

LONDON OFFICE:

Our London office requires a solicitor with at least four years' P.Q.E. in corporate / commercial law. The successful candidate will have excellent inter-personal skills and the ability to take responsibility for a varied and challenging caseload.

DUBLIN OFFICE:

We wish to appoint a number of solicitors with at least two years' P.Q.E. in corporate and commercial law. Candidates should be highly motivated individuals with strong analytical skills, plenty of creativity and a head for lateral thinking.

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and individual achievement.

For an informal and confidential discussion on any of these positions, please contact James Grennan in our London office at 0171 929 2425.

Applications marked "Strictly Personal - Reference JGG" should be addressed to:

A & L GOODBODY
S O L I C I T O R S

Pinnacle House, 23-26 St. Dunstan's Hill, London EC3R 8HL

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday, 13th June. Interviews will be held in our London office.

The capability behind the name



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(Immediate Partnership Prospects)

(5+ YEARS' PQE)

Donne Mileham & Haddock, well established as one of the leading firms in the South East, continues to expand, particularly in the commercial and institutional sectors. There has been a significant increase in the firm's international work.

We are now at a crucial stage of our growth and are seeking to appoint a dynamic, client-orientated corporate lawyer to become an integral part of this high profile commercial client department.

Ideally, you will have at least 5 years' ppe from a leading City/Regional firm with a broad exposure to corporate finance matters. You will have the ability to develop existing contacts and create new opportunities whilst managing the corporate team.

Work in the corporate team involves a comprehensive range of commercial projects including takeovers, mergers & acquisitions, MBOs, Stock Exchange floatations, franchises and corporate taxation.

At Donne Mileham & Haddock we offer a quality of life which has already attracted ex City lawyers, who now enjoy the benefits of working outside the City while continuing to undertake City type work.

We can offer you responsibility, new opportunities and high quality work coupled with excellent partnership prospects and a competitive remuneration package.



For further information in complete confidence please contact our retained consultants Seamus Hoar or Sarah David on 0171-405 6062 (0171-403 5727 or 0181-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



APPOINTMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF CIRCUIT JUDGE

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of Circuit Judge. Successful applicants will be recommended to The Queen for appointment to the Circuit Bench to fill vacancies arising between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 1999.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in the Crown Court or county courts for a period of ten years. They should normally be aged between 45 and 60 on 1 April 1998 and have served in the office of Recorder (not necessarily on the circuit to which they seek assignment as a Circuit Judge) for a period of 2 years prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will recommend for appointment the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number and location of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171 210 8983 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

Circuit Bench Appointments (JAD1)
Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 27 June 1997.

NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY NOTTINGHAM LAW SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF ACADEMIC LEGAL STUDIES

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(3 Posts)

£13,482 - £27,714 pa

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For an informal discussion, candidates may contact Louise Thornton on (0115) 9486141.

An application form and further details are available from Personnel Services, The Nottingham Trent University, Burton Street, Nottingham NG1 4BU. Tel: (0115) 9486522 (24 hour answering service). Post Ref No: LA292/TLM. Closing date: 20 June 1997.

For all vacancies see our Internet page <http://www.ntu.ac.uk/personnel>

CVs will only be accepted when submitted with a fully completed application form.

We are actively implementing equality of opportunity policies and seek people who share our commitment.



THE MOTION PICTURE ASSOCIATION

is looking for an OPERATIONS MANAGER FOR EASTERN EUROPE

The Motion Picture Association represents seven major U.S. film and television studios. The MPA European Office located in Brussels, Belgium is looking for an executive to join its Anti-Piracy Department.

Responsibilities will include:

- assessing the legal structure in national markets to protect copyrights;
- developing market profiles concerning the extent of copyright infringement;
- organising local industry to establish national associations for the protection of copyrights;
- working with national associations to develop annual business plans and budgets and supervising their implementation;
- lobbying national governments to achieve greater copyright protection.

Candidates should have 3-5 years experience in political or economic consultancy, in an international trade association, or in related legal practice. Legal qualification or experience, particularly in the field of copyright, would be a definite advantage. The position requires fluent written and oral English. Additional languages, especially Eastern European, would be useful. Salary is competitive.

Please send your CV together with a writing sample to:
Ms Anne-Line Bruneel, MPA
270-272 Avenue de Tervuren, B-1150 Brussels, Belgium

An Opportunity in Banking Law Field of specialisation: accounting and banking supervisory law Berlin-based

The

Association of German Public Sector Banks

is looking for a jurist specialising in banking law. Applicants should currently be working for a British or American bank, have experience in British/US and German law, mainly in the field of accounting and international banking supervision. German should be native language or first foreign language. Applications from women candidates are particularly encouraged. Age: around 40. First based in Bonn, later (after 1st January 1999) in Berlin.

The Association of German Public Sector Banks is one of the German banking industry associations, with offices in Berlin, Bonn and Brussels. It represents over 50 banks, which together account for roughly one-quarter of the combined balance sheet of all German banks.

Please respond by calling Dr Bernd Luethje at +49-2 28-81 92 200 (Bonn) during office hours, Monday to Friday (don't send written application). Evenings or weekends: call +49-21 04-5 34 48 (Mettmann) at a reasonable hour.

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Johnson Stokes & Master is Hong Kong's largest law firm and one of South East Asia's leading commercial law practices with more than 170 lawyers and a total staff of over 800.

We are seeking a solicitor with at least 3 years post qualification experience in general commercial/banking work to join our established Vietnam practice. It is envisaged that the successful candidate will initially be based in the Ho Chi Minh City office.

This is a unique and exciting opportunity for the right candidate and excellent career prospects and an attractive remuneration package will be offered.

Informal enquiries are welcome and may be made to Ms Joanna Knight on (852) 2843-4523. To apply, please send your CV to Ms Joanna Knight, Human Resources Manager, Johnson Stokes & Master, 17/F Prince's Building, 10 Chater Road, Central, Hong Kong. Confidential fax: (852) 2530-2503.

SHORT-TERM CONTRACTS ARE THE WAY AHEAD. THE TOP 100 LAW FIRMS ARE AWARE OF THIS . . . ARE YOU?

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Leading City firm seeks 2-6 year qualified solicitor/barrister with contentious IP/IT experience to support the litigation/insolvency department. Contract to start as soon as possible for about 3 months. Ref: 40635

NON FEE-EARNING

Banking lawyer sought by the London office of a leading American law firm to assist with updating precedents and in particular with the drafting of finance procedures. Position could be part or full-time. Ref: 39613

DERIVATIVES

Investment house seeks a solicitor/barrister with at least 1 years' ppe in ISDA documentation and standard form agreements. Contract to start immediately for 6 months, with the possibility of a permanent position. Ref: 40463

DEFENDANT PERSONAL INJURY

Legal executive, with at least 2 years' ppe, required by regional firm in their Thames valley office. Candidates would be working within the RIA team undertaking a heavy workload. Ref: 40577

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

2-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to assist within very busy property department of City firm. Experience from similar City environment essential. To start immediately for about 3 months. Ref: 25184

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Major regional firm needs a solicitor for their office in the South West. Up-to-date corporate experience essential, with ideally 2+ years' ppe. Start as soon as possible, to assist whilst permanent search continues. Ref: 40598

IT/TELECOMS

Newly established firm requires a solicitor/barrister with 2-10 years' ppe in IT/Telecoms. Recent experience necessary from either an in-house or private practice background. Immediate start. Ref: 40412

EMPLOYMENT

Small, but well regarded City firm, requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister with a mixture of contentious and non-contentious employment experience. Immediate start, to assist extremely busy department. Ref: 39757

Would you like to know more about short-term contracts and the way in which they work? If so please call Emma Anderson or Nicky Rutherford-Jones on 0171-405 6062 (0181-540 2381 or 0171-350 0682 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyers, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.



SPL is a QD Company

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATE INSURANCE

This all-round City firm has an all-round excellent reputation, and its corporate insurance work is particularly well-known. This makes it a very good move for a senior corporate insurance lawyer - either a senior assistant or partner with following - who is keen to make immediate partnership. Ref: T40238

DEBT CAPITAL MARKETS

An exciting opportunity to help this leading international law firm build up its debt capital markets work. You will need to come from a recognized practice and have a thorough knowledge of all aspects of issuing and documenting debt capital markets transactions. Emerging markets experience would help. Ref: T4448

CORPORATE TAX

If you want to work on some of the biggest international transactions, then look no further than this top 10 City firm that heads all the corporate tables. The best work, quality training and an established career path guaranteed to corporate tax lawyers with 2-3 years' ppe at good practices. Ref: T30212

VAT

This is a superb opportunity for a senior tax lawyer with 5+ years' ppe to become only this top 15 City firm's second VAT specialist. The promotion possibilities are obviously great in such a position, while you can be sure of working on some of the biggest and best corporate transactions in the City. Ref: T40188

EC/COMPETITION

Work for one of the City's best EC/competition practices in either London or Brussels at this top 10 firm. You will enjoy a very full range of high-profile matters and could also gain experience of regulatory work for utilities if you want to. You will have 3-5 years' ppe and perhaps some language skills. Ref: T39921

COMMERCIAL/IT

A chance to shine in one of the City's best-known niche commercial practices, and you will be very well rewarded if you do. You will be qualifying this autumn and the work will involve an international mix of commercial, IT and computer matters. You will ideally have some French and/or German ability. Ref: T40478

EMPLOYMENT

A well-respected employment practice at a leading medium-sized City firm: a good mix of contentious and non-contentious work; the chance to make rapid progress towards partnership - all in all, just what an employment lawyer with 2-4 years' ppe needs to take his or her career forward. Ref: T40481

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alison Jacobs, Sarah David or Seamus Hoar (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-731 5699 or 0181-7899 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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CLEARY, GOTTlieb, STEEN & HAMILTON

Our London office, which was established in 1971, is primarily involved in international finance and M&A work of all kinds and advises multinational companies, investment and commercial banks and other participants in the world financial markets.

We are seeking English qualified solicitors with between 2-4 years' post qualification experience in banking, tax or capital markets work to join our English team.

The London office currently has approximately 30 lawyers, who are qualified in a number of jurisdictions, principally in New York and England.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Heer or Kate Sutcliffe on 0171-405-6642 (0171-403-5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831-6394.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL
PARTNEREast Midlands
To £Six Figures

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WILL YOU TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

Whether you are an existing Partner seeking a fresh challenge or a senior associate looking to make your mark, this is an exciting and rare opportunity to take a lead role in the development of the corporate/commercial practice. Well versed in M&A, corporate finance and commercial work you should have the dynamism and practice development skills to get the best out of an existing client base that is full of potential.

You will receive a highly attractive remuneration package (which could include a car) and the full support of the partners to develop your practice. The sky is the limit both financially and professionally.

Has your
Career
Plateaued?
Start
Climbing...



To find out more in complete confidence please contact William Cook or Chris Cayley (both qualified lawyers) on 0121 212 9555 (0121 707 1371 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Midlands, Cornwall Buildings, 45 Newhall Street, Birmingham, B3 3QR. Confidential fax: 0121 212 9777.

Legal Adviser + Litigation
Central London

Our client, Sedgwick Group plc, is a world leader in risk consultancy, insurance and reinsurance broking, employee benefits and financial services. Operating from more than 280 offices in 83 countries, the Group continues to develop both organically and by acquisition, broadening its business base while extending its global coverage.

A new and exciting opportunity has now arisen within the Legal Department's Litigation team at the Group's City head office. Suitable candidates will have the following credentials:

- between 2 and 4 years' post-qualified experience either in private practice or in-house
- a litigation background which has involved insurance work, ideally coverage or broking-related cases
- intellectual capacity - which will include the ability to think creatively as well as logically
- commercial insight and a talent for harnessing legal techniques to practical effect
- a confident yet amenable personality, at ease working both with little supervision and in a team context

This appointment represents a rare chance for a litigator to join a top-class legal department within a blue-chip organisation. The role will offer variety and responsibility, with management potential, and command a competitive salary, car and benefits package.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by Reuter Simkin, Legal Recruitment Consultants. To discuss the opportunity in complete confidence please telephone Philip Boynton LLM, quoting reference 36837. Alternatively, send your CV to him at the address below.

Reuter Simkin
5 Essex Buildings
Chancery Lane
London EC4A 3DY
Tel: 0171 405 4161
Fax: 0171 242 1261
E-Mail: rsl@psd.co.uk
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Legal Recruitment

Sinclair Roche & Temperley

THE FAR EAST AND YOU!

Sinclair Roche & Temperley is a major international law firm, specialising in shipping, trade and transport, with offices in London, Bucharest and the Far East. Business expansion in our thriving Asia Pacific offices - particularly in the areas of shipping and international trade - requires us to seek four focused and talented lawyers to join our dynamic teams in Hong Kong, Shanghai and Singapore. You could be part of this growing and successful firm.

HONG KONG

You are a lawyer 4-6 years PQE. You have a broad range of dry shipping experience and good practice development skills. You are interested in opportunities to travel - from a Hong Kong office base - and want to be part of our fast growing China practice. Partnership prospects are important to you.

SHANGHAI

You are interested in practice development and are already a successful dry shipping lawyer. 4-5 years PQE. You want to be part of our unique and exciting Shanghai practice and contribute actively to its future development. You are interested in and are sensitive to other cultures. You are seeking early partnership.

HONG KONG

As 1-2 year PQE lawyer with good commercial litigation experience, you want to work in Hong Kong. You may have some dry shipping experience, although this is not essential. You are keen to learn and gain first rate litigation experience.

SINGAPORE

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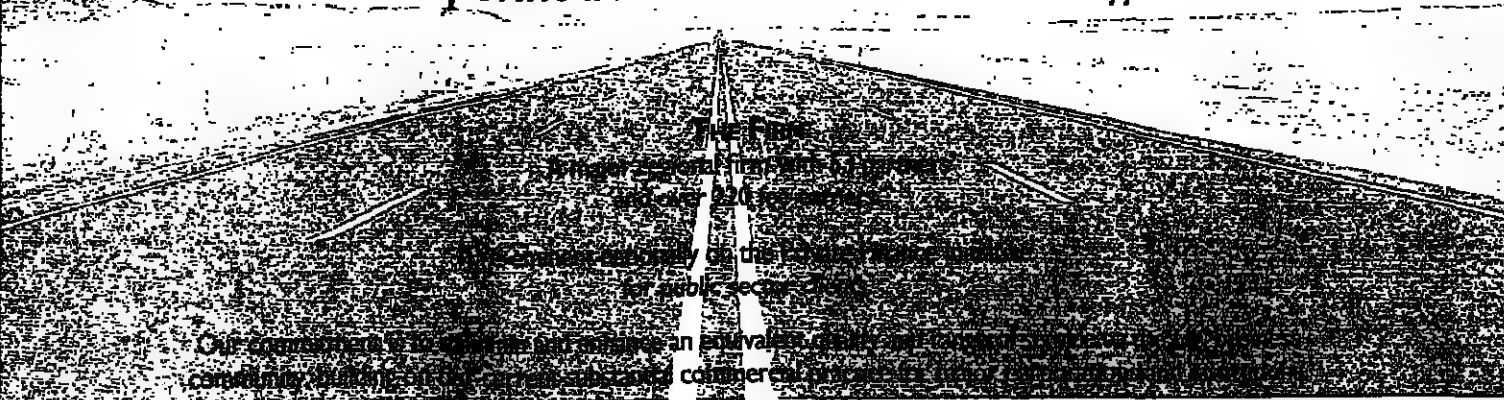
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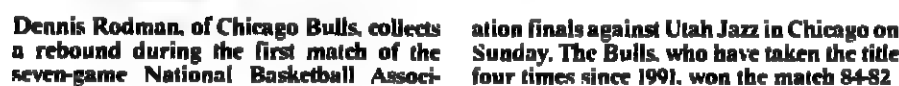


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Lions pack gets down to business

Diamond's early call

"We identified the problem on Saturday and went some way to correcting it during the match," Tim Rodber, who will

[illegible]

Leonhardsen joins Liverpool

Will van Hanegem, a former World Cup finalist with Holland, had talks yesterday with Peter Johnson, the Everton chairman, about the vacant managerial position at Goodison. Rumours persist, however, that George Gra-

Dick Knight, the Brighton chairman-elect, said: "Nobody wants to go to Gillingham but we will if we have to, to meet our League obligations. We will bring the club back to Brighton as soon as humanly possible."

Women: 5-6-8, 9-10, and 11. Murphy (Winnipeg) 12-18. Final: Hurd and Hardy of Edmonton and Ele, 25-15. Women's Singles Semi-finals: 1. Sten, Armstrong (Edmonton) 2. Shephard, Corbett. 21-6. N. Davidson (Ayre-Rathglen) beat Becher (Aberly Park) 21-5. Final: Sten of Davidson 21-16. Peer. Semi-finals: M. Manning and A. Jacobs (Bou) vs. J. Heel and J. Gately (Ayre-Rathglen) 23-5. C. Holmes and J. Phillips (Armstrong) vs. B. Thomas and D. Clirgde (Devon) 19-7. Final: Manning and Jacobs beat Holmes and Phillips 20-9.

FOOTBALL

4:20.02 Backstroke: 100m: K. Sedon
(Folkestone, Northsea) 1:04.80

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TENNIS: ONLY TWO SEEDS REACH QUARTER-FINALS OF MEN'S SINGLES AT FRENCH OPEN

New order reigns between the showers

FROM ROB HUGHES IN PARIS

PARIS lost the sunshine yesterday, but Roland Garros was illuminated by new and beguiling talents from all corners of the world. Between the showers, four young players who had never before reached the quarter-finals of a grand-slam tournament, stroked their way into the last eight at the French Open.

First, there came Gustavo Kuerten, the boy from Brazil, who finished off his overnight match against Andrei Medvedev, of Ukraine, winning 7-5 in the final set.

"I dreamt five times that I'd lose the match," Kuerten, 20, said. "I was a little bit tired to sleep, but I think I woke up well today. I could run, I was feeling 100 per cent, and I didn't have too much fear, because I could lose the match, but the guy couldn't hit me."

Indeed, Medvedev could not hit back a sufficient number of the powerful services, the excellent winning forehands that carried this Brazilian through to a quarter-final in which he meets the defending champion, Yevgeni Kafelnikov, this afternoon.

A new talent, and there is more in the contest between

two Australians, Patrick Rafter, representing the new breed, eliminated Mark Woodforde 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2 after more rain had interrupted. Rafter, 23, is only the third Australian to reach this stage of the French Open since 1970.

Another coming man, another continent, Galo Blanco, a Spaniard who had won only one of his past seven games before arriving in Paris, swept away Petr Korda, of the Czech Republic 1-6, 6-1, 2-5, 6-4. Of the 18 Spaniards who have been dominating the clay-court season, Blanco was the least respected, the last expected to blossom here.

But he joined his countryman, the resurgent Sergi Bruguera, twice a winner of the French Open, in this round. Bruguera, on centre court, needed six minutes short of three hours to win an obdurate, sometimes fractious match with Michael Chang, the last American male still standing in the competition. It took four sets of long and exhausting and metronomic rallies, but finally and deservedly Bruguera's control, his imperviousness to the dubious questioning of line calls



Bruguera enjoys that winning feeling after defeating Chang in four sets yesterday

not from one Chang but from two (Michael's brother, Carl, joining in from the sidelines), deserved to win the day.

Bruguera and Kafelnikov are now the two senior citizens of this men's tournament, senior in terms of court-craft and experience. Indeed, they are the only two seeds left in the quarter-finals, something that has never happened before in grand-slam history.

On the Suzanne Lenglen court, however, the highlight of what had become a most remarkable day was taking place, a match that really did open up new visions of a game that truly unites all races, colours and creeds. Hicham Arazi, born in Casablanca but raised from an early age in Magny, France, spun and wove spells around Marcelo Rios, the Chilean.

The first Moroccan to blossom in such a tournament to such an extent, Arazi had Rios absolutely mesmerised as he

won the first two sets, 6-2, 6-1. Rios thrilled the crowd by bolstering his game to claim the third set 7-5, and showed the same kind of resilience until he was defeated on the tie-break in the fourth set, when Arazi had been refreshed by the rain.

Arazi is an entertainer, not a man who belies the ball, who punishes it like the competitive Australians or the reliable Spaniards, but a wristy master of the art and the angles around a tennis court.

He played with a smile lurking on his face, a smile that at a lost point or a moment of adversity did not erase. He could twirl his racket around his fingers like a cowboy spinning his pistol. And he seemed to have Rios, himself a player whose craft had tied opponents in knots, at his mercy.

True, Rios had prefaced this match in the strangest way. After the warm-up, and before

the first service, he called for the trainer and had his right ankle resprayed and rebanded. Curious, very, very curious. Arazi, however, barely raised an eyebrow.

His use of the wrist reminded the French crowd of Henri Leconte and, for those of an older vintage, there was something of Rod Laver. He also seemed to combine the swift movement and reflexes of the badminton players from the sub-continent.

There was thought behind the way in which he seldom offered Rios two balls of the same weight or power or speed. There was anticipation which seemed to read the Latin mind that had been so closed to previous foes. And that anticipation put the Moroccan into place, whether on the baseline or at the net, almost before Rios could attempt his own sorcery.

So much from so many different parts of the globe.

RESULTS FROM PARIS

Men

Singles

Fourth round

G Kuerten (fr) vs A Medvedev (ukr) 5-7, 6-1, 6-2, 1-6, 7-5
S Bruguera (sp) vs M Chang (usa) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4
G Blanco (sp) vs P Korda (czt) 1-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4
P Rafter (aus) vs M Woodforde (aus) 6-2, 5-7, 6-2
H Arazi (mor) vs M Rios (chile) 6-2, 6-1, 5-7, 7-6

Doubles

Third round

Y Kafelnikov (rus) and D Vacek (czt) vs W Black (zmb) and J Smith (usa) 6-4, 7-6, 6-3
K Brash and J Kopschke (ger) vs L Jensen and M Jensen (usa) 6-4, 7-6
T Carbonell and F Floag (sp) vs S Goren and J Siemerink (usa) 6-3, 6-2
J Eltingh and P Haasthuis (hol) vs C Banti and F Miesang (ita) 6-3, 6-3
J Eagle and A Florent (aus) vs M Philippoussis and P Rafter (aus) 6-2, 6-3, 6-3

Women

Singles

Fourth round

M Sassi (usa) vs M Pierce (fr) 6-4, 7-5
M J Fernandez (usa) vs L Raymond (usa) 6-7, 6-2, 6-2

Doubles

Third round

A Fusai and N Tazari (fr) vs A Koumoukova and E Likhovtseva (rus) 6-2, 6-4
L Hend and H Sotomayor (czt) vs M Kuznetsov and M Miyagi (japan) 6-1, 6-2
Y Basu and C Vis (usa) vs M Puz and R Simpson (can) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3

BOYS

Singles: Second round

1. Ne7: Bax7, 2, Rax7 and the black queen is lost because of the threat of mate on g7.

Mixed doubles

Third round

P Tarabini and F Franca (arg) vs I Speranza (rom) and D Johnson (usa) 7-6, 6-3
J Eagle and A Florent (aus) vs M Philippoussis and P Rafter (aus) 6-2, 6-7, 6-3
H Sukovic and C Suk (czt) vs R Grande (fr) and L Perek (bol) 4-6, 6-1, 6-1

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Tournoi de France

France vs Brazil (at Lyons, 7.45)

RUGBY UNION

Tour match

Cuyo v England XV (at Mendoza, 7.0)

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (first day of four)

Kidderminster: Worcestershire vs Somerset
AON Risk Trophy (one day): Essex Meadows, Duffield: Nottinghamshire vs Derbyshire
Chalfont: Essex vs Kent
Egerton Park, Milton Keynes: Leicestershire vs Minor Counties

OTHER SPORT

GOLF: Amateur Championship (at Royal St George's and Royal Cinque Ports)
MOTORCYCLING: TT races (Isle of Man)
SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Bradford v Wrexham (7.30)
Amateur League: St Austell v Exeter and Newton (7.30)
TENNIS: Surrey International championships (at Southdown)

TELEVISION CHOICE

A killer that can be stopped

Home Ground: Every Parent's Nightmare
BBC2, 7.30pm

The latest documentary from the BBC regions to be given national exposure is a report from Wales about meningitis. The points it makes may be familiar to those who have followed the story over recent years, but, for anybody at all worried about the disease, they cannot be made too often. Meningitis is the biggest killer of children in Great Britain, it is on the increase and it strikes so quickly that its victims can be dead in a few hours. For all that, it is still comparatively rare and therein lies much of the problem. The film is full of stories of GPs who failed to recognise the symptoms, in some cases because they had not come across meningitis cases before. The film is essentially a plea for greater education, among doctors and public alike. If the disease is identified early enough, there is a chance that drugs can stop it.



Eye tests for pigs (BBC1, times vary)

The Death of Childhood

Channel 4, 9.00pm

The second film in the series about child abuse cases looks at allegations of ritual or satanic abuse in Nottingham, Rochdale and Orkney. The pattern was remarkably similar. Children taken into care started to tell police and social workers horrific stories of rape and assault linked to strange practices. The youngsters talked of drinking blood and even of babies being ritually sacrificed. The popular press had a ball ("Kids forced into Satan orgies") only to change tack when official inquiries found no evidence and blamed social workers for being hysterical. Then the headlines were about innocent families being torn apart. The programme does not come down on one side or another, but it does suggest that the "satanic panic" made it more difficult to uncover real child sex abusers.

QED: Move Over Babe

BBC1, times vary

Taking its cue from *Babe*, QED tries to discover whether pigs are as clever as that film made out. Professor Stanley Curtis, from Pennsylvania, is convinced of it. He even looks forward to the time when he will be able to engage pigs in conversation. Meanwhile, he is carrying out a

more limited experiment, to see whether two of the animals, called Hamlet and Omelette, can handle video games. With a snout-operated joystick in place of a key pad, it seems they can. We also hear from Katy Cropper, the only woman to win the *One Man and His Dog* contest. If she has her way, the show could be renamed *One Woman and Her Pig*, for she is teaching Streaky how to round up her sheep. Dick King-Smith, who created *Babe*, sees a problem. If pigs are as intelligent as all this suggests, will we be able to go on eating them?

Trauma: Life and Death in the ER

Channel 4, 11.00pm

Not for nothing is the emergency room of Denver General Hospital known as the knife and gun club. If the patients are not admitted with stab wounds, it is likely that they have been riddled with bullets. The warning to viewers about the "graphic nature" of the film is not misplaced. Much blood is spilt and is shown to be spilling. The case load may be distressing (a man bleeding to death from a stab wound, a woman's partner who has tried to kill himself), but the Denver medics are more than equal to it. Dr Debra Hutchins, who brings to the job fierce energy as well as tender concern, confesses that emergency medicine is addictive. The use of some snappy editing and flamboyant camerawork enhance the drama, though it would probably be just as compelling without such busy intervention. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

A Century of Agony

Radio 2, 9.30pm

The problem page is 100 years old and this programme celebrates that anniversary. The question that naturally arises is what people did about their problems in the preceding centuries: wrote to Nostradamus? Button-holed Charles Dickens? *A Century of Agony* is presented by Deirdre Sanders, agony aunt on *The Sun*, and the programme shows that, although things have changed, they have also stayed the same. Agony pages are now much more frank and tend to have a less moralistic approach to sexual matters and there is much less concern about social etiquette, but there remain some constant concerns, typically about mothers-in-law, something that is still a thorn in the flesh of women more than men.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Wiley 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 George Jones 7.30 Digital Update with Rachel Prynard 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Clare Sturgess 1.00am Charlie Jordan 4.00 Dave Warren

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Anne Robinson 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Alan Stewart 5.05 Chris Serle 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits 8.00 Nigel Ogden 8.00 Surf's Up! 9.30 A Century of Agony 10.00 Richard Ainsworth 12.00am Adrian Frighan 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 3 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 The Magazine 12.00 Midday with Mel 2.00pm Ruisseau on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.25 Any Sporting Questions? With Pat Murphy and Gavin Hastings 8.00 Murray Walker's Grand Prix World 9.30 The 21st Century and How to Survive It with Dominic Monaghan and R. Glover 10.00 News Talk 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After Hours with Vincent Hanna 2.00am Up All Night with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Wan 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chesham 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Peter Deely 7.00 Anna Raskin 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Mike Dixon

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Mendelssohn (String Quartet No 6 in F minor, Op 80); Kabalevsky (Overture: Colas Breugnot); Franz Doppler (Duetto Hongrois); Rameau (Suite: Dardanus); Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 12 in C sharp minor); Fauré (Dolly Suite)

9.00am Morning Collection, with Peter Hobbday. Includes Weber (Overture: Curyantio); Glazunov (Nocturne, Op 15, Nos 1-3); Mozart (Piano Sonata in C, K593); Horowitz (Cello Concerto)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Piers Burton-Page. Includes Elgar, orch Jacob (Soliloquy); Nielsen (Overture: An Imaginary Journey to the Far East); Vaughan Williams (The House of Life); Górecki, arr A Benjamin (Oboe Concerto in C minor); Stravinsky (Lullaby for the Dying Poet); Liszt (Trio Sonata in A, Op 14); Chausson (Symphony in B flat)

12.00 The Week: Double Abroad. 1.00pm City of London Sinfonia, under Mark Forster. Penny Gore introduces the first of six French music concerts given in the Church of St Giles, Cripplegate in the Barbican, London. Includes Duruflé (Harp); Caplet (Comte Fantastique); The Masque of the Red Death; Boulez (Denise I); Ravel (Introduction and Allegro)

2.15 Voices. Ian Burnside experiences the sights and sounds of Italy through this week's selection of songs (r)

2.45 Usher Orchestra, under Jacek Kasprzyk. Bruckner, ed Novak (Symphony No 3 in C minor, 1873 version)

4.00 Spirit of the Age. Christopher Page and Claire Preston explore the work of the dramatist Ben Jonson (r)

5.00 Music Machine. The second of this week's programmes exploring music and space

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, includes: Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.50 Weather

9.00 News 9.15 Call Edward Sturtess. The number to call with your questions for the guest of the day is 0171-580 4444

10.00 News: Hong Kong - The Closing Year. Diaries record their feelings as the British Crown Colony approaches the handover to China (3/5)

10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 11.30 All in the Mind. In the last programme of the series, Professor Anthony Clare visits Maudsley Hospital, Europe's first lunatic asylum, established 750 years ago

12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer news and current affairs with Lesley Roddick

12.25pm Quizzes. Uniquely, Nigel Preece shares the questions quiz and on the panel are Jonathan Cecil, Jeremy Nicholas, Gemma O'Connor and Norman Willis 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: Thirty Minute Theatre: Enoch Soames. See Choice

2.30 Comparing Notes with Brian Key. A discussion about *Bestrewn* with the author John Suchet and the pianist John Lill

3.00 The Afternoon Shift. Dore Braham introduces the story of the people of Dubrovnik, who decided to start rebuilding their city while it was still being bombarded

4.00 News: A 105 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan meets John Fuller who reads from his new novel, *A Sun Diary*, set in 19th-century Wales

4.45 Short Story: Bubbles on Dark Water, by Mairi O'Connor. Read by Ann Marie Horan

5.00 PM, with Charlie Lee-Potter and Chris Lowe 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Minor Adjustment. The final part of Andy and Eric Menzies's comedy about the lives of a family whose daughter has Down's syndrome. With Peter Davison, Samantha Bond and Claire Russell (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 File on 4. Topical issues investigated in depth by Mark Whittaker

8.00 Science Now. Peter Evans asks whether space really is the final frontier (r)

8.30 The Metronome. In the last programme of the series about the information age, Alan Lowe talks to Richard Dawkins and Igor Aleksander about artificial consciousness. He asks them whether information can take on a life of its own (6/6)

9.00 In Touch. Peter White with news and features for visually impaired people

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight, with Jeremy Harte 10.45 Book at Bedtime: A Month in the Country, by J L Carr. Read by Samuel West (7/5) (r)

11.00 Mediumwave. A look at the week's media events with Vincent Hanna (r)

11.30 A View from Abroad. The first of six views of Britain by international writers features the Russian novelist Victor Erolyev. He asks residents of Oxford personal questions in order to test the famous British resolve (r)

12.00 News incl 12.27am approx Weather 12.30am The Late Book: The Information, by Martin Amis. Read by William Nighty (2/15)

12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 692, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.58am). CLASSIC FM. FM 102.1-102.5. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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City dreamers may fall down on the farm

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

The world divides into those who get excited by the prospect of moving to the country, and those who get excited by the prospect of moving to the city. The former is the more common of the two, and the latter is the more exciting. The prospect of moving to the country is a dream for many, but it is a dream that is often shattered by the reality of the country. The reality of the country is that it is a place where you are often alone, where you are often in the middle of nowhere, and where you are often in the middle of a war. The reality of the country is that it is a place where you are often alone, where you are often in the middle of nowhere, and where you are often in the middle of a war.

Every so often some human beings, who feel that sheep and rabbits would make warmer companions than the backstabbers and gossip-mongers in their own office, pack up and head for somewhere green as well. "Frankly," says Alan Reynolds, one of the humans who cut and ran in search of *The Good Life* (Channel 4). "I couldn't stand the thought of pushing a pen around for the rest of my life." Alan had one of those swan-like faces that look all confident and serene on the surface, but you quickly got the impression that there was some frenzied paddling going on underneath.

Alan had done his sums before moving and decided that it was "going to be rough for a couple of years, but we're not looking for huge amounts of money, but a different quality of life." Which was just as well, looking at his early taking. The wearying thing about the countryside is that there is never time to put your feet up and relax. Can't be bothered to cook tonight? Tough, because they just don't have Indian restaurants willing to deliver within a 60-mile radius in Wales. Alan and Karen were

to be milked and cheese, the temptation would have been very strong to go to the nearest farm shop, buy someone else's goat's cheese, repack it in a different wrapper, and resell it, hoping nobody noticed. But the Reynolds have nobody to blame but themselves, because this is what happens when you are weak enough to succumb to the fantasy of a rural idyll. It makes you realise that moving to the country is only for people who are utterly determined, or who have reliable access to Class A drugs.

An even starker warning of what happens when humans rush in where only animals should tread came in the first of a new series of *Absolutely Animals* (Channel 4). It showed how adult gorillas in Cameroon are hunted and butchered for their meat and to make tourist souvenirs. They fetch £20 each, a month's wage. A by-product of this slaughter is

hundreds of orphaned gorilla infants. Volunteer carers at the Limbe Primate Sanctuary try to nurse them into adulthood. The odds are daunting. Parti Gleason, who runs the programme, says: "Most of them come in very traumatised, dehydrated and malnourished." Like Alan and Karen Reynolds, many of them have only a 50-50 chance of survival in an unforgiving wilderness.

There seems to be no threat to the survival of the television sitcom. Last night, BBC1 brought us *The Peter Principle*, a new series made by Hat Trick, which usually knows what it's doing. Their smartest move was to persuade Jim Broadbent to make his sitcom debut — as Peter Duffley, an improbably incompetent bank manager. The recipe, so far, is more tried-

and-tested Delia Smith than *River Cafe Cookbook*, but they haven't sinned on the ingredients. There's the efficient assistant manager; the dippy secretary; the dim-witted office junior; the no-nonsense area manager; all played in regulation sitcom primary colours. There's a Valentine Day card mix-up and some vintage *Terry-and-Jane*-style spluttering when Duffley learns that one of his bank customers is gay.

It's a brave scheduler who launches any new sitcom into the BBC's sea of *Sergeant Bilko* reruns. But, on the bright side, *Bilko* shows that you don't need to strain for new tricks to make a sitcom funny. It is, in all, a judge *The Peter Principle*, but all the loose plot strings in this first episode were neatly tied up by the end, and Broadbent is one of Britain's most underrated actors; it will be worth watching for him alone.

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3.25pm Regional News (3261883)
3.30pm Potamus Park (1) (3072970) 3.40pm Wizardia (1) (8928951) 3.50pm Old Bear Stories (8824135) 4.00pm Scooby Doo (1) (9415001) 4.10pm The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (4634195) 4.20pm Waynehead (1) (5689338) 4.40pm Island (1) (6604680)
5.10pm Can Cook: The Best of China (8987680)
5.40pm News (1) and weather (576393)
6.00pm Home and Away: Selma is surprised to discover the secret of Lachar's feelings for Shannon, while Liam, Casey and Joey finally bury the hatchet (1) (112)
6.30pm HTV West Tonight (64)
7.00pm Emmerdale: The villagers gather to pay their last respects to Frank Tate and Zoe confronts Kim over her role in Frank's death (6370)
7.30pm Take 3 (48)
8.00pm The Bill: The old-boy network forces Conway to put pressure on Deakin and Carver to collar a vicious robber preying on elderly victims (1) (2390)
8.30pm The Cook: Report Investigator Roger Cook uncovers malpractice (1) (1425)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (4094406)
5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (8987680)
6.25-7.00pm Central News (198777)
7.30-8.00pm 24 Hours (48)
1.40pm Highlander (585222)
12.40pm Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (7577636)
1.15pm Film: Say Anything (221617)
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6.00am Sesame Street (1) (84203)
7.00pm The Big Breakfast (89861) 9.00pm Bewitched (42067)
9.30pm Schools: Eureka! (4505203) 9.45pm Sooty, Lock, Listen (4533086) 10.00pm Fourways Farm (3265219) 10.10pm The Jacobites (1223456) 10.30pm Enterprise Zone (3195)
11.00pm Science in Focus (5603222) 11.20pm Stage One (1524116) 11.37pm Lost Animals (8241045) 11.45pm Scotscapes (4723154)
12.00pm House to House (22203)
12.30pm Light Lunch (85999) 1.30pm The Dingles: Animation (15154951)
1.45pm When My Baby Smiles at Me (1948) with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey A period musical directed by Walter Lang (5605851)
3.30pm Collectors' Lot (1) (70) 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (1) (77) 4.30pm Countdown (1) (6379609) 4.55pm Ricki Lake (1) (5554777) 5.30pm Animal Passions (1) (41)
6.00pm Friends (1) (812221)
6.25pm Filde Game show based on chance (829241)
6.55pm Fresh Pop (778951)
7.00pm Channel 4 News (1) (862338)
7.50pm Life Stories (643086)

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Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

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3.20pm News (1) (3362512)
3.25pm Regional News (3261883)
3.30pm Potamus Park (1) (3072970) 3.40pm Wizardia (1) (8928951) 3.50pm Old Bear Stories (8824135) 4.00pm Scooby Doo (1) (9415001) 4.10pm The Twisted Tales of Felix the Cat (4634195) 4.20pm Waynehead (1) (5689338) 4.40pm Island (1) (6604680)
5.10pm Can Cook: The Best of China (8987680)
5.40pm News (1) and weather (576393)
6.00pm Home and Away: Selma is surprised to discover the secret of Lachar's feelings for Shannon, while Liam, Casey and Joey finally bury the hatchet (1) (112)
6.30pm HTV West Tonight (64)
7.00pm Emmerdale: The villagers gather to pay their last respects to Frank Tate and Zoe confronts Kim over her role in Frank's death (6370)
7.30pm Take 3 (48)
8.00pm The Bill: The old-boy network forces Conway to put pressure on Deakin and Carver to collar a vicious robber preying on elderly victims (1) (2390)
8.30pm The Cook: Report Investigator Roger Cook uncovers malpractice (1) (1425)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (4094406)
5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (8987680)
6.25-7.00pm Central News (198777)
7.30-8.00pm 24 Hours (48)
1.40pm Highlander (585222)
12.40pm Collins and Macdonald's Movie Club (7577636)
1.15pm Film: Say Anything (221617)
3.00pm In Focus (2570617)
3.45pm The Big Match Replayed (899568)
4.25pm Central Jobfinder '97 (458162)
5.00pm Asian Eye (55562)

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6.00am Sesame Street (1) (84203)
7.00pm The Big Breakfast (89861) 9.00pm Bewitched (42067)
9.30pm Schools: Eureka! (4505203) 9.45pm Sooty, Lock, Listen (4533086) 10.00pm Fourways Farm (3265219) 10.10pm The Jacobites (1223456) 10.30pm Enterprise Zone (3195)
11.00pm Science in Focus (5603222) 11.20pm Stage One (1524116) 11.37pm Lost Animals (8241045) 11.45pm Scotscapes (4723154)
12.00pm House to House (22203)
12.30pm Light Lunch (85999) 1.30pm The Dingles: Animation (15154951)
1.45pm When My Baby Smiles at Me (1948) with Betty Grable and Dan Dailey A period musical directed by Walter Lang (5605851)
3.30pm Collectors' Lot (1) (70) 4.00pm Fifteen-to-One (1) (77) 4.30pm Countdown (1) (6379609) 4.55pm Ricki Lake (1) (5554777) 5.30pm Animal Passions (1) (41)
6.00pm Friends (1) (812221)
6.25pm Filde Game show based on chance (829241)
6.55pm Fresh Pop (778951)
7.00pm Channel 4 News (1) (862338)
7.50pm Life Stories (643086)

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am-9.20am News (5870203)
9.20am Style Challenge (345796)
9.45am Killy (1949883)
10.30am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (46241)
11.00am News, Regional News (1) (2550845)
11.05am Real Roads (7483338)
11.35am The Great Escape (4877222)
12.00pm News, Regional News (1) and weather (1010970)
12.05pm Call My Bluff (5229574)
12.35pm Neighbours (1) (4083390)
1.00pm O'Clock News (1) and weather (88838)
1.30pm Regional News (1) and weather (15147661)
1.40pm The Weather Show (36342650)
1.45pm Columbo starring Peter Falk (1) (9165488)
2.55pm Through the Keyhole (5534319)
3.30pm Consuming Passions (1) (3068796)
3.30pm Playdays (1) (5656222) 3.50pm Pismo (3430048) 3.55pm Arthur (5666009) 4.20pm Julia Kell and Harriet Hume (1) (5663390) 4.35pm Round the Twist (573970) 5.00pm Newsround (8080883)
5.10pm Activ8 (1) (7757086)
5.35pm Neighbours: Mad plans a romantic night in with Harold (1) (813777)
6.00pm O'Clock News (1) (16)
6.30pm Regional News Magazine (1) (96)
7.00pm Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt (1) (8574)
7.30pm EastEnders: Will Martin give in to peer pressure and go along with the gang's plans? (1) (80)
8.00pm Children's Hospital: The last in the series focusing on Alder Hay Hospital in Liverpool (722)
8.30pm Only Fools and Horses: Rodney's new flame sends Del into a panic (1) (8357)
9.00pm News at 9 (1) and weather (5608)
9.30pm The Jasper Carrott Trial Highlights from 28 years of the comedian's stand-up routines (1) (86998)
10.00pm QED: Move Over Babel American scientist Professor Stanley Curtis is attempting to train pigs to use computers in the hope of proving they are the most intelligent members of the animal kingdom (1) (30222)
10.30pm The X-Files: Blood A spate of murders is linked to the destruction of electronic equipment (1) (186715)
11.15pm Film 97 with Barry Norman includes reviews of Con Air, featuring Nicolas Cage and John Malkovich; The Fifth Element with Bruce Willis; a report on David Cronenberg's controversial adaptation of J.G. Ballard's Crash; and Event Horizon, filmed on one of the largest sets ever constructed at Pinewood (570390)
11.50pm The Bounty Hunters (1970) With Yul Brynner, Dean Reed and Pedro Sanchez. Mexican revolutionaries desperate for money and weapons to continue their fight against the government kill forces with a notorious gunfighter who is plotting to steal a billion dollars. Directed by Frank Kramer (89806)
1.30am-1.35am Weather (5013013)

6.00am O.U.: Scenes from Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe (3614222) 6.25pm Informer, Edward, Davenport (333357) 6.50pm Victorian Ways of Death (7034089)
7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (1) and singing (11343067)
7.30pm Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (1) (1) (6251661) 7.55pm Blue Peter (1) (1) (2443222) 8.20pm Junior Jungle (1) (1867298) 8.35pm The Record (2000338)
9.00pm Teaching Today (57999) 9.30pm Space Ark (4510135) 9.45pm Watch (4508390)
10.00pm Teletubbies (58203) 10.30pm Come Outside (4482608) 10.45pm Science Zone (5638845) 11.05pm Space Ark (2571338) 11.15pm Go for It! (1541883) 11.30pm Sportsbank (4116) 12.00pm See Hear (1) (1) and singing (37135)
12.30pm Working Lunch (64777)
1.00pm Teaching Today (57999) 1.30pm Bank (15145203) 1.40pm Zig Zag (17297116) 2.00pm Junior Jungle (83934390)
2.10pm The Flying Vet (1) (3124086) 3.00pm News (1) 3.05pm Westminster (1) (4133932) 3.55pm News (1) (3429681) 4.00pm Blockbusters (3448338) 4.25pm Ready, Steady, Cook (3434225) 4.55pm Esther (5696009) 5.30pm Today's the Day (45)
6.00pm Fresh Prince of Bel Air With his wedding day fast approaching, Will turns to his Uncle Phil for some much-needed financial help (1) (836154)
6.25pm Heartbreak High: Charlotte sees red when Katrina lets Draco spend time at the warehouse (1) (8406238)
7.10pm The O Zone (223086)
7.30pm Parent's Nightmare: Phil Perry reports on the rise of meningitis, a disease which all parents fear but many know little about (1) (22)
8.00pm Two Fat Ladies: The women cater for an exclusive dinner party at the Duke of Hamilton's magnificent stately home of Lennoxville Castle, Scotland (1) (15884)
8.30pm Food and Drink: Choice Cuts The series ends with a chance to see some of the best moments (1) (4999)
9.00pm Murder One: Chapter Nine A record company executive files the long list of suspects in the Costello case (1) (7680)
10.20pm Video Nation Shorts (584845)
10.30pm Newsnight (1) (184357)
11.15pm Ruby Late-night chat (419715)
11.55pm Weather (549796)
12.00pm The Midnight Hour: Political discussion with Lesley Riddoch and guests (69704)
12.30am Learning Zone: Open University: A Matter of Resources (82549) 1.30pm Forgetting Fatigue Lake (6627



RACING 45

Fabre's Cloudings raises French hopes for Derby

SPORT

TUESDAY JUNE 3 1997

TENNIS 46

Old-timers given the runaround at French Open



Australians slide to narrow defeat in final match before first Test

Adams adds insult to injury

By IVO TENNANT

DERBY (final day of three): Derbyshire beat the Australians by one wicket

IN ADDITION to their continuing concerns over the form of their captain, Mark Taylor, the Australians lost their last match before the Test series, the cricket that really matters to them, starts on Thursday. In a riveting finish, Derbyshire beat them with their last pair at the crease and with three balls in spare. This in spite of Shane Warne taking seven for 103.

It was the first time Derbyshire had beaten an Australian touring team since 1910, when they defeated a services side. Even though they required an important innings from Dean Jones, a compatriot of Taylor, to do so, this was a terrific achievement. They were asked to score 371 off what, ultimately, were 60 overs. Chris Adams, who was fined by his county yesterday,

Hereafter Hayden 44
Waqar strikes 44
Wells runs deep 44

and who, his captain feels, hits the ball as hard as any cricketer he has seen, made 91 off 76 balls.

Derbyshire were fortunate in that both Bichel and Gillespie were injured. The latter is expected to be fit for the first Test, Julian, who had to bowl the final over, off which Derbyshire required five, was spent by then. Aldred, who played despite the death of his father last week, had no difficulty in collecting the winning runs in partnership with Dean, who, the previous over, had manfully pulled the first ball he received, from Warne, to the boundary.

Taylor, who added only four runs to his overnight 59, reiterated that he would be playing against England on Thursday. He was less concerned with losing this match than with not having what he described as 11 "fully fit" players for Edgbaston. As to his own batting, he feels his technique is improving all the while. "Any problem I have



Adams pulls forcefully during the innings of 91 that formed the foundation of Derbyshire's victory over the Australians yesterday

now will be more mental than physical," he said. Although he professed he did not like derogatory comments about him from former Australia captains, he still regards them as friends. He is that kind of man, although no doubt his friendships will be formed with greater care in the future.

The target Taylor left Derbyshire was a demanding one. Yet when Rollins was in partnership with Adams, adding 142 off 28 overs, reaching it became feasible. Adams, who is expected to appeal to the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) over the fine levied on him by Derbyshire for his dissent over his dismissal on Sunday, took out his

frustrations on the Australians, to whom, incidentally, he apologised. His pulling and driving on this slow pitch were of a high order, not least when he hit Warne for four, six, four off successive balls.

Warne bowled in his cap for much of the day, not because the great leg spinner of yesterday did so, but because of a cross-wind so strong that the balls were dispensed with at one end. The surprise was that, on probably one of the windiest grounds in the world, there was only one heavy set. Eventually, Warne had Adams, whose 91 included 16 fours and a six, held at deep mid-wicket. In his next over, Rollins was leg-before, sweeping, and he deceived Blackwell with flight soon afterwards.

Warne collected his fourth wicket when he had Clarke caught at point, cutting a rare bad ball, a fifth when Krikken mistimed a pull to short mid-

DERBY SCOREBOARD	
AUSTRALIANS: First Innings 362 for 6 dec (G S Blewett 121, M T G Elliott 67, M G Bevan 58)	
Second Innings	
M T G Elliott b Harris	4
M A Taylor c Krikken b Aldred	63
J Langer b Dean	12
M G Bevan not out	104
B P Julian c Jones b Dean	62
S K Warne not out	2
Extras (b 2, lb 4, no 12)	18
Total (4 wickets)	285
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-35, 3-159, 4-260	
BOWLING: DeFreitas 10-3-31-0, Harris 16-3-49-1, Blackwell 9-1-49-0, Dean 10-0-45-2, Aldred 15-1-65-1, Rollins 2-0-12-0, Clarke 4-1-8-0	
Umpires: V A Holder and R A White	

wicket, a sixth, DeFreitas, through an excellent running catch by Mark Waugh, substituting for Bichel. He then had Harris leg-before. Jones, though, who clearly wanted to beat his countrymen, enabled his side to keep up with the

asking rate. His 57 came off 82 balls. This was the highest total Derbyshire had made in 29 matches against senior Australian touring sides.

Off the field, Derbyshire expressed their disappointment that Adams had neither

accepted their fine — thought to be £750 — nor apologised to the club for disrupting his dismissal with both umpire Holder and the Australians. He has 14 days in which to appeal to the ECB's disciplinary committee, which has the power to increase his fine.

Derbyshire have to take a decision today whether to include him for their match against Hampshire at Chertsey tomorrow. Mike Horton, the club chairman, stressed that Adams's desire to leave Derbyshire and the £1,000 fine he received from them over his critical comments in the winter — this was suspended by the ECB — were not taken into account. "But we are disappointed Chris has not apologised to us or the supporters," he said. "I will be surprised if the ECB do not react quickly and, of course, his punishment could be increased."

Head-to-head races lead to life in the farce lane

N on sooner had The Dumbing Down of Athletics. Part Two finished on Sunday than talk of another one-to-one challenge between Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey reared its ugly head-to-head.

"The door is open for an American venue and a rematch," Ray Flynn, Bailey's manager, said, though he may have trouble persuading his athlete.

Still more difficult will be convincing the cognoscenti that such events are good for the sport. The matches between Bailey and Johnson, in Toronto, and Haile Gebrselassie and Morceli, in Hengelo, promised much but delivered rather less. Athletics, the doomsters say, needs new ideas because it is turning into a Cinderella sport, but surely it can do better than these Ugly Sisters?

In both races, the loser failed to finish. Neither in Hengelo, nor in Toronto, did the public get what it came to see. Big money, which helped to hook public attention, is no guarantee of performance. The attempt on the first sub eight-minute two miles ended in failure as Gebrselassie finished outside the target after Morceli, expected to push him to the finish, fell behind before halfway.

The Canadians wanted satisfaction for the suggestion at the Atlanta Olympics that Johnson, not Bailey, was the world's fastest man. If there was any substance to the promotional hype that one race over 50 metres would settle the issue, Bailey was denied the evidence when Johnson pulled up, shortly after halfway, clutching a

David Powell reflects on the mismatches that masqueraded as sport in Toronto and Hengelo

thigh. Canadian celebrations rang loud and hollow.

Had Johnson finished looking as though he had tried, Bailey's camp might have felt fully satisfied. However, instead of settling one argument, it raised another. Did Johnson feign injury? Bailey kicked up a storm by alleging he had, just as he accused Linford Christie of faking injury when the Briton saw his 100 metres world title slip towards the Canadian in 1995. "I do not think Michael Johnson is hurt," Bailey told Steve Cram, interviewing for Eurosport. "I think he saw the gap opening, then he had to give up. He does not like to get beat and this was just a cop-out for him to say: 'I got hurt, let us have a rematch.'"

Johnson, like Christie be-

fore him, was not impressed with Bailey's accusations. When he was asked the question, he rebuked a journalist for daring to suggest it. Unless Flynn can persuade Bailey otherwise, Johnson can say goodbye to challenges between them.

If athletics was searching for new ideas, it had better keep looking. In the meantime, head-to-head billings are to be encouraged, for the sake of promoting the sport and ensuring that the best athletes do not avoid each other, provided they come with full fields. In that respect, Hengelo cannot be criticised because others were given a chance against Gebrselassie and Morceli. What irks, though, is that a full house paid, expecting a ding-dong race.

When only two athletes are involved, the scope for let-down is huge. The sight of an athlete looking back down the track, with no competitor in tow, as Bailey did in the SkyDome, must not happen again.

CARLO ALLEGRI



Bailey was delighted with his hollow victory over Johnson

Lions pull rank on Catt

FROM DAVID HANDS AND MARK SOUTER

MIKE CATT will arrive in Johannesburg tomorrow to bolster the British Isles squad in South Africa, despite some reluctance by Jack Rowell and the England management to release him from their tour of Argentina before the second international on Saturday.

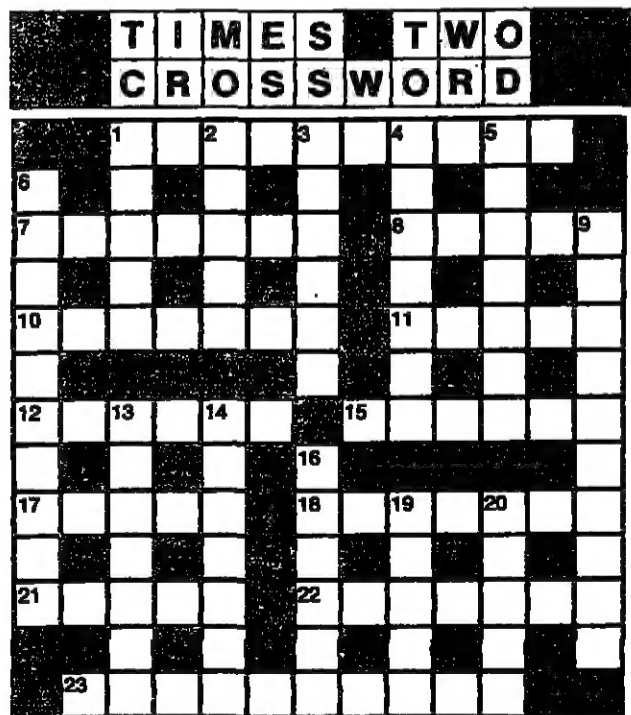
Catt, the Bath stand-off half, replaces the injured Paul Grayson and will be available for selection against Northern Transvaal on Saturday. "Understandably, England would have liked Catt until Saturday, but that was not an option as far as the Lions were concerned," Fran Cotton, the manager, said in Pretoria yesterday. Cotton's stance was fully supported by the Rugby Football Union.

"We recognise we have taken away the fulcrum of Jack's team and that he had to think through his own options first," Cotton added. Catt flies out from Buenos Aires tonight.

Rowell was clearly unhappy with the decision, but remained diplomatic. "We have got to take it in our stride. The priority is the Lions. England climbed a mountain by beating Argentina; now we are back at base camp. It does leave England in a bit of a pickle."

England — who last night named Jon Callard, the Bath full back, as Catt's replacement — will have to decide on a new stand-off for the international, with the kicking ability of Mark Mapletoft, of Gloucester, likely to earn him selection ahead of Alex King, of Wasp.

Forward planning, page 43



No 1110

- ACROSS
- Of uncertain outcome (5-3-2)
 - Cheat, tornado (7)
 - One copying another (5)
 - Group sharing interests (7)
 - Flower: Leopold and Molly (10) (5)
 - Dark, gloomy (6)
 - Picture-taker (6)
 - Ghosts playwright (5)
 - Scold (7)
 - Dog-head (5)
 - On the journey (2,5)
 - Involuble (10)
- DOWN
- To tarnish: had mark (5)
 - Complete: express (5)
 - Big wasp (6)
 - South West Africa (7)
 - Tree, its yellow resin (7)
 - Zly motionless (5-5)
 - Seize for own use (10)
 - Eyelash cosmetic (7)
 - US stock farmer (7)
 - Peter Paul —, Baroque painter (6)
 - Element B (5)
 - Grown up (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1109

- ACROSS: 1 Quality 5 Part 8 Daetyl 9 Rancid 10 Buzzword 12 Heat 13 Signature 17 Winy 18 Walk tall 20 Viking 21 Tragic 23 Jest 24 Jezzebel
- DOWN: 2 Uranus 3 Lot 4 Folio 5 Pankhurst 6 Climax 7 Credit 11 Zeitgeist 14 New Age 15 Simile 16 Plaise 19 Litre 22 Ace

OTHER SPECIES: 10 TIMES GLADIES IN THE UK ONLY SEND AN LTR FOR DETAILS OF CLOTHES, ETC. AND OTHER THINGS

TIMES CROSSWORD: Book 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000

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Send your solutions to: The Times Crossword, 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01753 354141. Fax: 01753 354142. E-mail: crossword@times.co.uk

Hoddle keen to explore all alternatives

By OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE sun was shining at the Hertfordshire hotel where Glenn Hoddle spoke to the media yesterday. But he refused to bask in it. Great though the temptation might have been to glory in the fine 2-0 victory over Poland on Saturday and to turn down the heat for the Tournoi de France this week, the England coach was insistent that it would be business as usual.

Mindful, perhaps, of the shenanigans that occurred when England returned from matches in Hong Kong and China, the incidents at the China Jump Club and on the Cathay Pacific flight, Hoddle said that the heroes of Katowice would not be allowed to celebrate the victory anywhere outside the confines of the team hotel in France.

He admitted that some of the pressure in the forthcoming games against Italy, in Nantes tomorrow night, and then France and Brazil in the next seven days had been lifted by the victory in Poland that enhanced England's prospects of qualifying for the World Cup finals in France next summer.

"I would gladly have swapped a win in Poland for three defeats in this tournament," Hoddle said, "but we are greedy, so now we want to win the games over the next week, too." The squad, he said, would be treating the four-team tournament, which begins with Brazil's match against France in Lyons tonight, as a dry run for the World Cup with all the attendant disciplines that means.

"We are going there to be professional," Hoddle said. "That is what it is about. It is not going to be as relaxed as you seem to think. If we want to win the World Cup, we are going to have to make sacrifices. If anybody thought it was going to be Fred Karno's with everybody out night-clubbing, that is not what they want."

"There is not a bighead in the squad off the pitch. There is not somebody who wants to stand up and be a bit special. If you get somebody who could be a bit of a bad egg, it could cause all sorts of problems, but there is nobody like that at the moment."

"This tournament is about being further down the line if and when we qualify for the World Cup. There are going to

be things thrown at us in the World Cup that we are not prepared for yet and the players need to be educated.

"You might see a different shape. The three countries we are playing against will play in different ways. It would be lovely to win all three games, get that inner belief back and set the country alight. But there is more to it than that."

"Even if a couple of results did not go our way, that would be OK. But if something we were trying failed then we might have to rethink that and abandon it as something we could take forward."

Hoddle said that his ideal was to go into the World Cup with England playing a sweeper. He said Gareth Southgate, who played so capably against Poland, may be encouraged to fulfil the role in this tournament, but would be unlikely to be entrusted with it on a permanent basis. The job had been earmarked for Jamie Redknapp, until he

PICTURES

Today: France v Brazil (at Lyons, 7.45). Tomorrow: Italy v England (at Nantes, 7.30). June 7: France v England (at Moscow, 7.45). June 8: Brazil v Italy (at Lyons, 7.30). June 10: England v Brazil (at Lyons, 7.30). June 11: France v Italy (at Paris, 7.45).

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suffered a broken ankle against South Africa.

Hoddle admitted, though, that if he experimented with a 4-4-2 formation, he might be tempted to give David Beckham, the Manchester United midfielder, his long-awaited chance in the centre of midfield. That would probably allow his club-mate, Phil Neville, to occupy one of the full-back slots.

That, in fact, is likely to be the other significant aspect of the tournament, a last chance for some players to stake a claim for a place in the World Cup squad. Lee Clark, who joined Sunderland from Newcastle yesterday, was added to the list of hopefuls yesterday when he was called up to replace Nicky Butt, who withdrew with a hamstring injury. Hoddle pointed to Robert Lee as proof of the strides a player can take if he seizes a chance and given the positive mood the squad is now in, those on the fringes will be desperate to take their opportunity.

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